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Thursday, December 10th, 2009 Vol. 2 Issue 46

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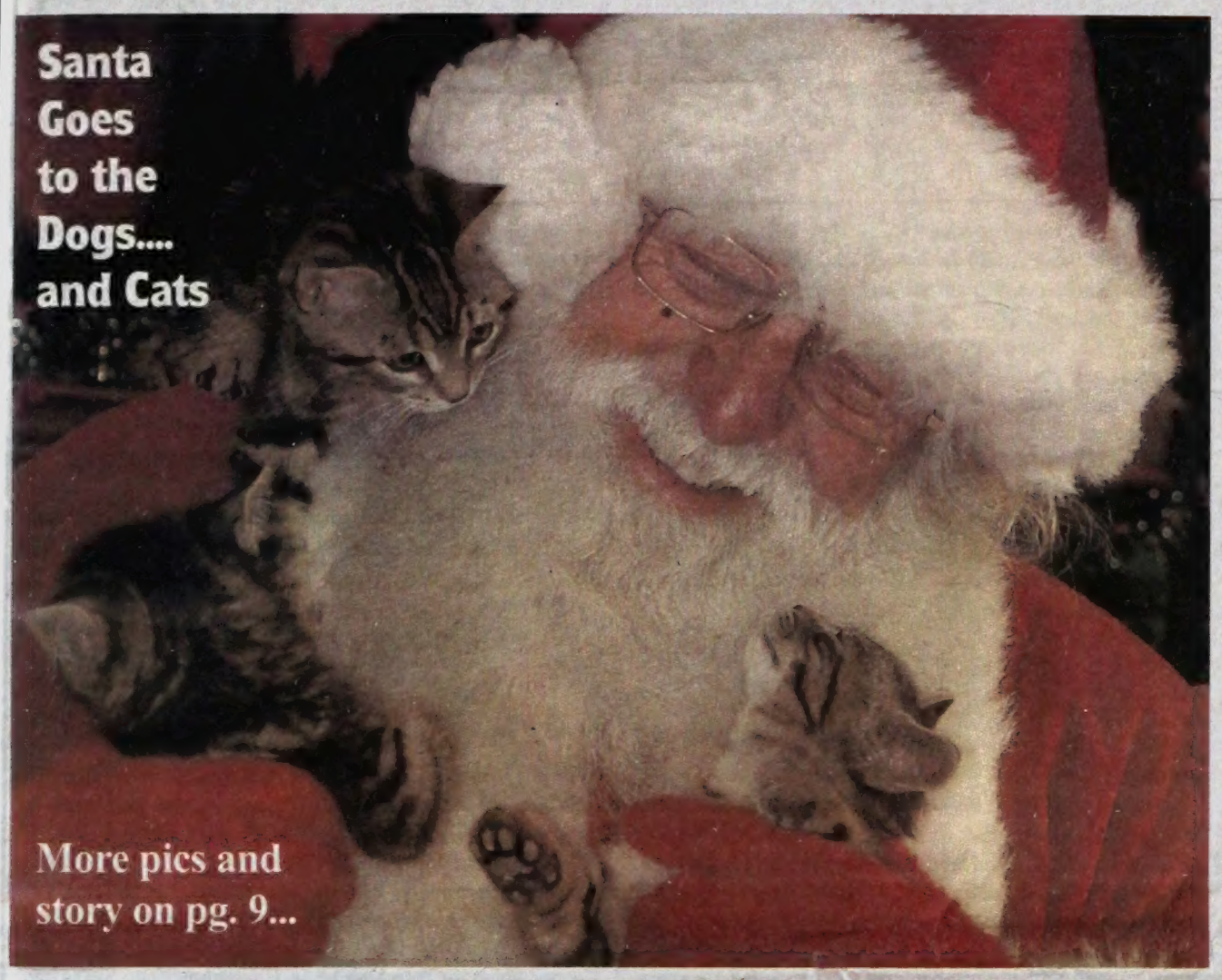

Victims of Violence Remembered and Honoured

By Lyn Winans

The names and stories of 15 murdered women were displayed at the front of the gathering room in Zion United Church this Sunday afternoon. All had been the victims of domestic violence in Ontario this year. Although December 6th marks the day Canadians remember the 14 women gunned down at Montreal's École Polytechnique 20 years ago, the posted stories are a grim reminder that violence against women is still very much a part of our society. In about 95 percent of domestic violence cases, the victim is a woman.

Bob McKay, from Neighbours, Friends and Families, welcomed the crowd of approximately 60, and talked about violence against women from a male perspective. NFF is a public education campaign to raise awareness of the signs of woman abuse so that those close to an at-risk woman or an abusive man can help. He referred to domestic violence as "the single largest health issue in Canada". "It saddens me deeply", he said.

Guelph University Women's Studies graduate, and SIRCH Marketing Manager Nancy Brownsberger discussed the attitudes presented, and the name calling that she had been confronted with when deciding to pursue women's studies at university. "Lesbian, radical, man-hater", were just some of the labels she had to deal with. Brownsberger reminded the listeners about how difficult it is for women who try to deal with the issue of violence when much of society wants to deny its existence and keep it hidden in the shadows. She went on to recount a personal story about a friend and mentor who had been bludgeoned to death by a male co-worker.

"The point", she stressed, "is that violence against women is in the shadows, we need to take it out of the shadows." A symbolic lighting of candles followed.

Names were read, and individual roses were laid in memory of the 14 women who perished in the Montreal massacre two decades ago, in addition, the 15 victims of domestic murder in Ontario this year were remembered. A bouquet was added to honour the women slain by the pig farmer in British Columbia.

Outloud Womyn's Voices closed the program, followed by refreshments, which were served by the men.

Although a reasonable crowd was gathered, about one third of them men, one couldn't help but observe that the average age was around 60, and that Nancy Brownsberger's son was the only young person in attendance. Although Montreal's École Polytechnique may seem like ancient history to our youth, if there is to be hope of bringing the issue of domestic violence out of the shadows, engaging our young people will be a crucial element of the solution. ■

For pictures and more on the Memorial see pg. 25...

G20 Summit Plans Will Likely Upstage G8

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Although the announcement that Canada will host the G20 next summer was made in September, it has taken Prime Minister Stephen Harper months to confirm that Toronto will host the summit. While this may come as no real surprise given the rumours that have been circulating for weeks, the fact that the G20 dates overlap those of the G8 does raise some questions; questions that are not really being answered so far.

The initial plan was to hold the Group of Eight summit in Huntsville from June 25th to 27th and there was some speculation at first that the G20 would be held in the same location. However, several weeks ago, RCMP Commissioner William Elliott announced that the area could simply not accommodate the larger summit even though millions of dollars had already been spent to prepare Huntsville for this world class event. The dates for the G8 have now been confirmed as June 25th and 26th in Huntsville. With the G20 now being scheduled for June 26th and 27th, the obvious overlap raises questions on whether the Muskoka community will see much action at all.

The possibility that the G8 Summit may be seriously curtailed was raised during the County's Economic Development and Tourism Committee meeting held last week. Director Bob Smith, who had been working on promotions for Haliburton County during the G8, advised the Committee that he and their EMS department were receiving seriously conflicting information about the summits, and, tongue in cheek,

G20 cont'd... pg.5...

Inside This Issue

The Nutcracker - A Christmas Tradition ... pg. 30

A Highlands Miracle... pg. 2

Basketball at HHSS... pgs. 21 & 22

A Highlands Miracle: Pipi Returns

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

"Pipi is an extremely tame bird; she would sleep on a perch right next to our bed. She hated being in her cage, she would only go in there to eat. She has a habit on being on our shoulders all the time but when we would step outside she would immediately fly back into the house," says Carmen Sike, who along with her husband Steve, are the owners of Pipi. However on October 30th this wasn't the case and Pipi, a two year old budgie, decided to attempt to fly to a nearby tree and she made it. "She had never done that before, we would always tell her to stay in the house but this time she didn't." Carmen and her husband Steve watched helplessly as their cobalt coloured bird spread its wings and flew into the distance underneath the rain splattered skies. Carmen explains how "we followed her path that she seemed to take and kept calling her name but she never came." Everyday Carmen and Steve would call for their budgie but to no avail. "There wasn't a day I didn't think about her, I would always look at the tree that she flew onto to see if she had come back but she never did. I was hopeless but was still hoping."

Carmen regularly advertises in the Voice for apartments she has for rent, so she decided to try one more time to find Pipi by putting an ad in the Voice. When the December 3rd Voice came out Carmen's phone rang that same day at 12.30pm. Amanda from Paulmac's Pet Food Store in Minden was on the other end. "She said 'I think we have your bird.' I just couldn't believe it at first but then afterwards I thought well could this be possible, I was hesitant as I didn't want to be disappointed." Carmen and Steve immediately drove to Paulmac's: sure enough, there was Pipi, after 33 days on the lam. "She seemed to recognise our voices as she was walking up and down on her perch rapidly, Steve took her out of the cage she was in and asked her to kiss him. That was something she would always do and she immediately did it, we then knew that she was our bird. When we got her home she immediately flew to my shoulder and that also clarified it was her."

Now that Carmen, Steve and Pipi were reunited they were overjoyed especially as she had been away for such a long time, an incredible surprise since she could have been hunted by larger birds or died over the cold nights. "I told Pipi that she was never to do this again and she now sleeps in her cage instead of next to our bed!" laughs Carmen. However it was still a mystery to the couple where their long lost bird had been for all that time. Amanda from Paulmac's told them that Ingoldsby resident Sharon Harrison and her husband had seen Pipi early in the morning of November 10th with wild birds eating from the bird feeders she had in her garden. She kept an eye on her and noticed that she would fly away from the blue jays that she was scared of. Sharon's neighbour Rose came over and gave her budgie food and it was this new food that lured Pipi inside Sharon's house. The ladies decided to call Paulmac's as neither could keep the bird.

Sharons house is five kilometres away from Carmens and Steves old house where Pipi went missing so it's also a wonder where Pipi was from October 31st to November 10th when she was found by Sharon: five K is an extremely far distance for such a small house trained bird to fly.

Carmen and Steve would like to thank Amanda and the employees at Paulmac's in Minden, Sharon Harrison and her husband and their neighbour Rose. Lets hope Pipi doesn't decide to stretch her wings again. The Sykes also want to thank the County Voice for "reaching all of Haliburton." The Sykes are faithful Jehovah's Witnesses, and asked us to thank their faith for them as well.■

Above left: Pipi in all her glory. Centre: Pipi enjoys some turkey with Steve Sike. Above: Carmen and Steve Sike telling their story of the miracle rescue.

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Minden Opens Flu Vaccine Clinic to All

The atmosphere was light hearted as people chatted and visited during the flu vaccine clinic at the Minden Community Center on Monday. "Greeter" Kris Kadwell, of the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge Health Unit welcomed all arrivals offering them the day's two-for-one special, H1N1 and seasonal vaccine free of charge, definitely a more substantive reception than Walmart offers!

The clinic opened half an hour before its scheduled start time at noon and about 100 vaccines were given during the first hour of operation. The process initially took 30 minutes to complete, but an hour later, times had been reduced to approximately a quarter of an hour as the rush subsided and demand leveled out.

Anne Marie Cyr, HKPR Chronic Disease Prevention manager, reported that 379 vaccines were administered during the clinic, 239 H1N1 and 140 seasonal flu. ■

AROUND THE REGION: A strong storm system, to the northeast of the region, will produce windy conditions as well as morning snow showers. Highs will in the single digits below zero. Snow showers and flurries will continue on Friday. Highs will remain in the lower single digits below zero. On Saturday, sunshine will return to the area with highs in the single digits below zero.

THURSDAY
Windy with morning snow showers
▲ -7° ▼ -16°

FRIDAY
Cloudy with snow showers and flurries
▲ -8° ▼ -18°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy and chilly
▲ -5° ▼ -13°

SUNDAY
Morning snow showers, then clearing skies
▲ -7° ▼ -16°

MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with afternoon flurries
▲ -8° ▼ -18°

TUESDAY
Chance of snow showers
▲ -7° ▼ -15°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with flurries
▲ -8° ▼ -18°

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

Lotto 649
05-Dec-2009
08 10 14 22 28 29
BONUS 02
ENCORE 7231312

Lotto MAX
04-Dec-2009
01 06 13 19 32 35 40
BONUS 07
ENCORE 4178359

TROPICAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk	City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk
Acapulco	31/26/pc	32/26/pc	31/26/cl	Montego Bay	31/25/ts	31/24/ts	32/27/su
Antigua	30/24/ts	30/24/su	31/26/su	Nassau	28/22/pc	26/21/sh	31/28/sh
Barbados	31/25/pc	31/24/su	31/27/ra	Port au Prince	31/26/pc	30/24/pc	33/26/cl
Bermuda	23/18/sh	18/15/pc	31/26/sh	Puerto Vallarta	31/23/su	31/24/su	29/23/na
Cancun	30/23/sh	31/24/ts	32/26/na	St Thomas	30/24/pc	29/24/ts	29/24/ra
Curacao	31/26/ts	32/26/su	31/24/ts	St. Maarten	31/25/ts	30/24/su	31/27/su
Freeport	27/21/cl	25/19/sh	33/28/su	San Jose, CR	30/22/ts	29/21/ts	31/21/ra
Georgetown	30/22/ts	31/23/ts	31/23/ts	San Juan	30/23/pc	29/23/pc	28/23/ra
Havana	29/21/pc	28/20/pc	34/24/su	San Salvador	32/22/pc	31/21/pc	32/22/su
Key West	28/22/pc	27/21/pc	27/22/pc	Santo Domingo	30/22/ts	29/22/ts	33/26/su
Kingston	31/25/pc	31/25/ts	33/32/su	Trinidad	31/26/ts	32/26/pc	32/27/ra

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Sunday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Monday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Tuesday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Wednesday Hi/Lo/Otlk
Bancroft	-7/-16/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-13/pc	-7/-16/pc	-8/-18/sf	-7/-15/sn	-8/-18/sf
Barrie	-6/-15/sf	-7/-17/sf	-4/-13/pc	-6/-16/pc	-8/-17/sf	-6/-14/sn	-8/-17/sf
Dorset	-7/-16/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-14/pc	-7/-16/pc	-8/-18/sf	-7/-15/sn	-8/-18/sf
Haliburton	-7/-16/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-13/pc	-7/-16/pc	-8/-18/sf	-7/-15/sn	-8/-18/sf
Huntsville	-7/-16/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-14/pc	-7/-16/pc	-8/-18/sf	-7/-15/sn	-8/-18/sf
Kingston	-6/-14/sf	-6/-16/sf	-4/-12/pc	-5/-14/pc	-7/-15/sf	-5/-13/sn	-7/-15/sf
Lindsay	-6/-15/sf	-7/-17/sf	-4/-13/pc	-6/-16/pc	-8/-17/sf	-6/-14/sn	-8/-17/sf
Minden	-7/-16/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-13/pc	-7/-16/pc	-8/-18/sf	-7/-15/sn	-8/-18/sf
Oshawa	-6/-14/sf	-6/-16/sf	-3/-12/pc	-4/-14/pc	-6/-14/sf	-4/-12/sn	-6/-14/sf
Ottawa	-5/-13/sf	-8/-18/sf	-5/-13/cl	-7/-18/cl	-8/-19/cl	-6/-15/cl	-8/-19/sf
Toronto	-5/-14/sf	-6/-15/sf	-2/-12/pc	-4/-13/pc	-6/-14/sf	-4/-11/sn	-6/-14/sf

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/Otlk	Friday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Saturday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Sunday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Monday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Tuesday Hi/Lo/Otlk	Wednesday Hi/Lo/Otlk
Calgary	-12/-21/pc	-14/-22/sn	-18/-21/sf	-19/-23/sf	-19/-24/sf	-1/-13/sn	-4/-17/sn
Edmonton	-18/-28/sf	-22/-34/pc	-22/-36/sf	-23/-37/sf	-23/-37/sf	-18/-24/cl	-19/-26/sn
Fredericton	-2/-9/sf	-7/-17/sf	-6/-17/pc	-7/-15/cl	-6/-14/sn	-4/-12/cl	-2/-13/sn
Halifax	1/-6/sf	-6/-14/sf	-2/-12/pc	-1/-11/pc	-1/-11/sn	2/-9/pc	3/-7/mx
Montreal	-3/-11/sn	-8/-17/sf-	-6/-15/cl	-7/-17/sn	-7/-18/pc	-7/-17/pc	-8/-19/sf
Regina	-19/-31/sf	-17/-28/sf	-17/-29/sf	-18/-30/sf	-19/-31/sf	-3/-15/cl	-4/-15/sn
St. John's	2/-4/mx	-2/-8/sf	0/-8/pc	1/-8/cl	2/-7/sn	2/-7/sn	1/-9/cl
Saskatoon	-21/-32/sf	-22/-33/cl	-22/-34/sf	-22/-34/sf	-22/-36/sf	-7/-19/cl	-12/-23/sn
Vancouver	-1/-3/pc	4/-3/pc	3/2/pc	4/2/pc	8/2/pc	9/3/sh	10/4/sh
Whitehorse	-7/-13/sf	-6/-12/cl	-7/-13/cl	-8/-15/cl	-9/-16/cl	-7/-13/cl	-9/-18/cl
Winnipeg	-21/-31/cl	-22/-31/cl	-21/-30/sf	-22/-32/cl	-23/-33/sf	-21/-30/pc	-6/-21/sn

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 12/7	-6°C	-1°C	0.0 mm
Sunday 12/6	-1°C	-10°C	0.0 mm
Saturday 12/5	0°C	-9°C	0.8 mm
Friday 12/4	1°C	-3°C	0.5 mm
Thursday 12/3	5°C	1°C	5.1 mm
Wednesday 12/2	9°C	-3°C	0.0 mm
Tuesday 12/1	3°C	-2°C	0.3 mm

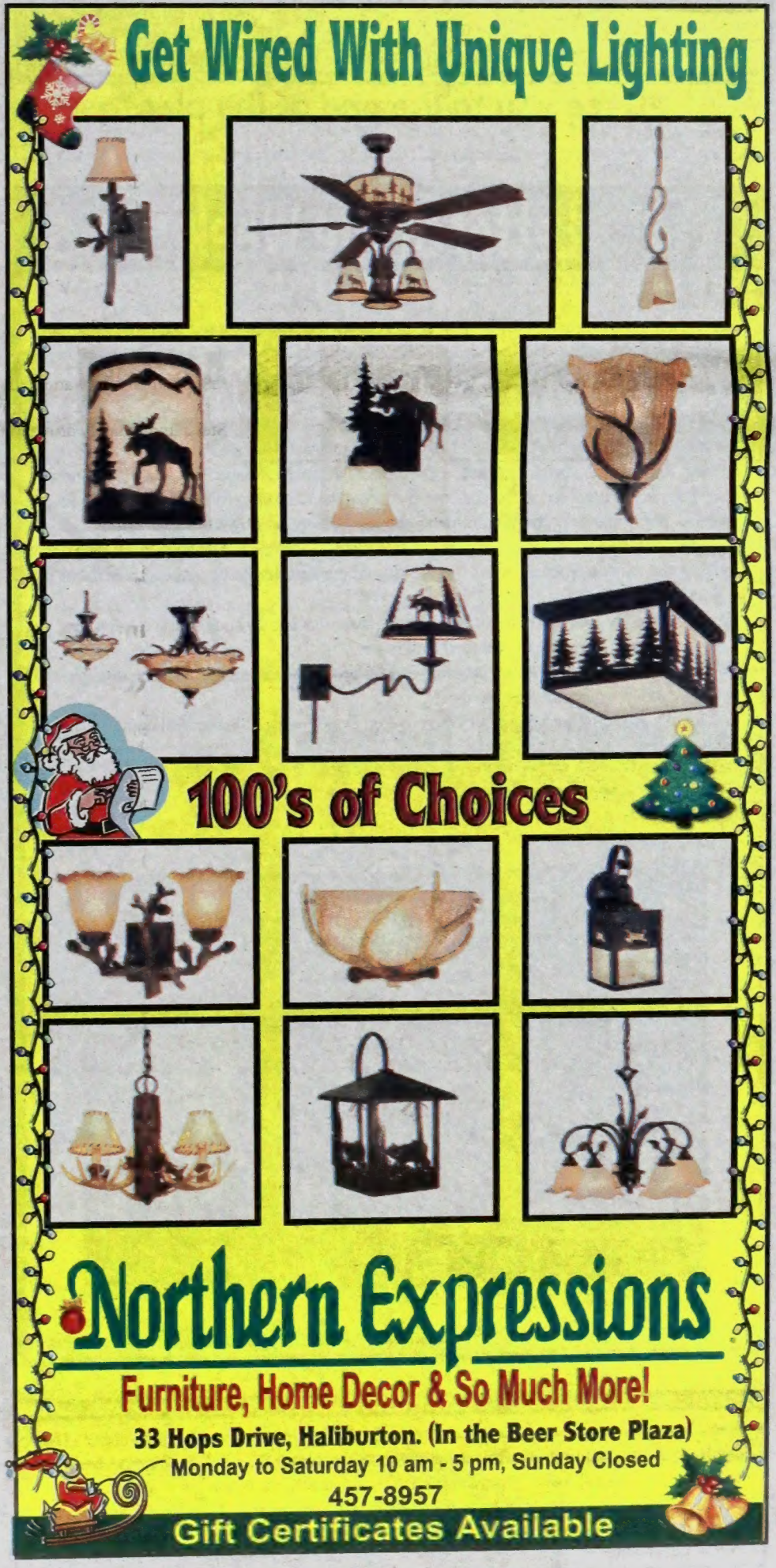
Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
www.stanhopeairport.com

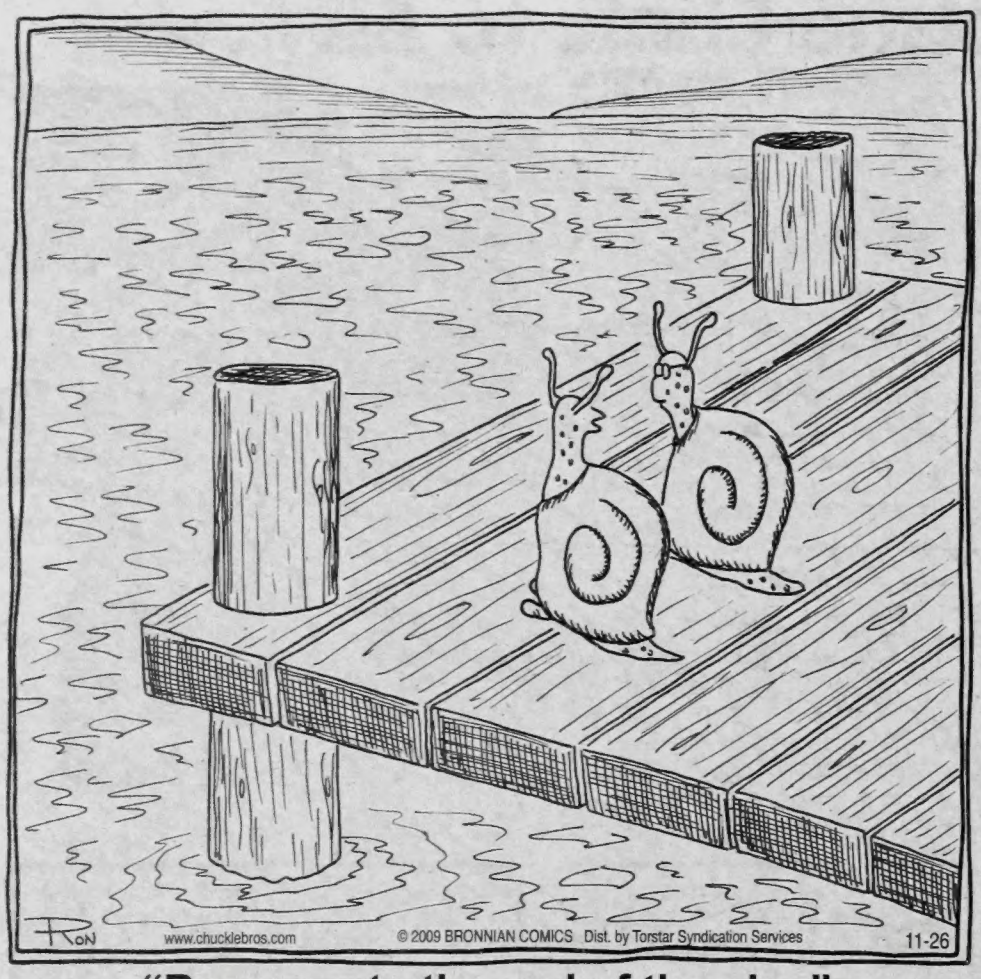
SUN & MOON

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu.	7:42 a.m./4:32 p.m.	1:32 a.m./12:50 p.m.
Fri.	7:43 a.m./4:32 p.m.	2:44 a.m./1:14 p.m.
Sat.	7:43 a.m./4:32 p.m.	3:55 a.m./1:42 p.m.
Sun.	7:44 a.m./4:32 p.m.	5:06 a.m./2:14 p.m.
Mon.	7:45 a.m./4:33 p.m.	6:13 a.m./2:54 p.m.
Tues.	7:46 a.m./4:33 p.m.	7:14 a.m./3:41 p.m.
Wed.	7:47 a.m./4:33 p.m.	8:07 a.m./4:35 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Dec. 16	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Jan. 7

Forecasts, graphs and data provided by Weater Central, Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2009





"Race you to the end of the pier."

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"This is no way for anyone to find their family pet."

Our dog Buddy was struck and killed on Nov. 30th on Highway 503 near the Irondale Store. The people involved in the accident contacted the Haliburton Veterinary Hospital and requested our name and phone number. They identified Buddy by the tags on his collar. Those people have yet to contact us.

Buddy was moved from the scene on the side of the road to the opposite side and left in the ditch.

We found Buddy Dec. 2nd afternoon when we were driving down 503 looking for him.

This is no way for anyone to find their family pet.

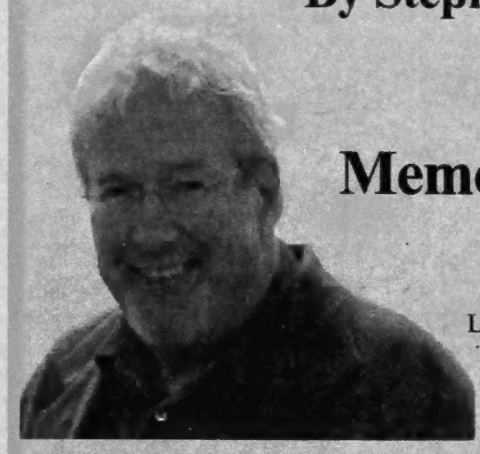
Buddy's collar and tags were removed from him. Whoever has his collar and tags, we would like to have them returned to us.

Our thanks go out to our neighbour who covered Buddy with a blanket and comforted him until he passed.

Vera and Bill Godfrey
Irondale. ■

Editorial VIEWPOINT

By Stephen Patrick



Memorials, Men, and Massacres

Last Sunday night I had the task and honour of moderating an all-male 45-minute discussion on the topic of "Violence Against Women". The occasion was the YWCA's special evening commemorating the Montreal Massacre of December 6th, 1989, and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The local YWCA had the inspired idea of not only honouring and mourning the past, but also saluting the present and future of women, and all communities in Haliburton County by honouring five vibrant and forceful local women as 'Guardian Angels' (see page 24 for details.) The evening indeed turned out to be both melancholy and inspirational, with powerful musical interludes from the OutLoud Womyn, appropriately providing a sort of frame for the evening.

My co-conspirators on the panel on violence all had first hand, professional experience with the ongoing issue of violence against women, and indeed with family violence of all kinds. The Reverend Merv Everall, a retired Anglican minister and high school Vice Principal, at first described just how difficult, if not impossible, it was in the 1960s and 1970s, for any student of any gender to come forward and admit either to sexual abuse, or to domestic violence. Everall then stunned the crowd with the revelation that his drunken father's abuse of his mother, and of himself, in the Cabbagetown of 60 years ago, had been a central horror of his life, and one that he couldn't admit to anyone for many years, certainly not when he was an adolescent.

Peter Ferri, Vice Principal at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, gave an impassioned plea for society's acceptance of gender differences and equality: "We work constantly at the school to break down the barriers between the genders, and to make a community where slurs, insults, and of course any kind of violence towards women, are not tolerated."

Terry Goodwin, Probation Officer with Haliburton County, said that breaking down sexual and gender stereotypes in young offenders was a daunting task: he added that there was also a need for adolescent males to have strong male role models, fathers who they could look up to. He also said that he was deeply concerned with the Internet availability to teenagers of pornographic images of impossibly perfect female bodies: "these kids are raised with sexual expectations that can't possibly be fulfilled – and the reality leads them to put down, and look down upon, their partners in real life."

OPP Constable Mike Landry has been an police officer for 28 years, 21 of them in Haliburton County, and he pointed out that he alone on the panel had a "highly visible role" in the community, what with his marked squad car and uniform. Landry said that the rural isolation and lack of transportation, and even communication, that so many families faced in this area was without doubt a contributing factor to the OPP's ability to keep an eye on potentially violent situations. He did point out, however, what an enormous change there had been in the OPP's knowledge of domestic abuse, and their ability to deal with it. "In terms of community effort, there's no doubt that the support of our partners in the social agencies, schools, and health services, has made a great difference in our ability to gather information and build a case. And with our attitudes to the issue."

Finally, Point in Time Program Manager Dan Bajorek agreed with Constable Landry that great progress had been made in the last 30 years in terms of communication between social workers and police. He also emphasized how much more society had to change in terms its image of maleness: "Being a man isn't about the ability to knock somebody out: our notion of maleness has to change. For example, every weekend Hockey Night in Canada, and the Sports Networks, focus on the fights and violence, rather than the speed and skill of the game. That simply has to change."

If there was a central theme to the panellists' opinions, it was how essential community involvement was in dealing with the issue. All in all, some whispers of hope emerged: but that against the backdrop of 14 more women in this province, in this year alone, murdered at the hands of men. ■

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More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

"The sun's energy is the new gold."

How about this idea? Let's take that vast expanse of Crown land that Bancroft Uranium Inc. bulldozed, scalped, and drilled in their failed attempt to strike it rich with our uranium – and turn it into a solar farm. Picture it: a carpet of smooth and shining solar panels working away silently, blanketing this tortured land that's been scraped and pierced for decades in one 'gold rush' after another. The sun's energy is the new gold.

The incentive for the solar company is that this land has already been cleared. As well, Haliburton County offers good roads and a dedicated workforce. And in turn, this renewable energy project would bring jobs and positive spinoffs to our area.

But we'll need to convince the provincial government not to renew this American company's exploration claim, once it expires. So, since the province has now jumped onto the green bandwagon, it's time to see if it can carry a tune – or whether it's just lip-synching.

Suzanne Lauten
Green Party of Canada
Halibuton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. ■

Dear Editor:

"… there is some weight behind some of the rules."

I liked Liz Danielsen's article in last week's paper, Thursday Nov 26, titled "Kenisis Lake Association Receives $40,000 boost. We at Soyers Lake in conjunction with Lakeland Alliance also entered a Shoreline Advisor Program this past summer and see the value of educating our residents of the importance of maintaining a natural shoreline. Your article demonstrates that there is some weight behind some of the rules. We would like to post your article on our website, soyerslake.ca so that our members can also read it. Many of them are summer and occasional winter residents and will probably not have an opportunity to read it. Thanks

Case Bassie
Treasurer, SLRA ■

Dear Editor:

"In Darfur, Sudan, rape is used as a weapon of war."

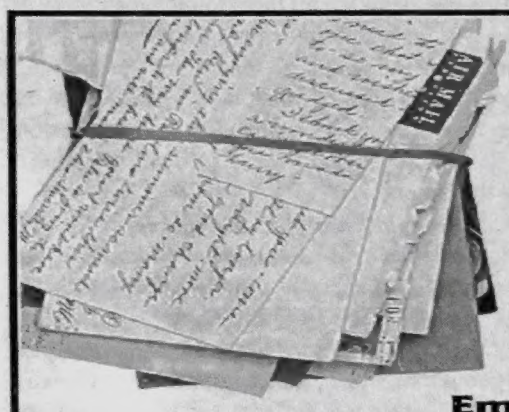
The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women was on December 6. While it is worthwhile to address human rights close to home, I think attention should also be given to Darfur and the widespread violence women face there.

It seems as a nation we have turned a blind eye to the problems of the developing world as we become absorbed in our economic situation and dare I say climate change issues. Canada needs to contribute to many worthwhile projects but also work towards peace in the Sudan. Canada needs to increase foreign aid to the Sudanese who are immediately suffering.

In Darfur, Sudan, rape is used as a weapon of war. Millions of displaced civilians, the majority women and children, live in squalid camps. With insufficient protection by United Nations forces, women face constant risk of rape, especially when they leave camps to collect firewood or farm.

I urge residents to take political action and financial action to help the women in Darfur. I know it is also extremely beneficial to work towards peace in all aspects of our lives and change the attitudes about violence, sexual abuse and harassment.

God Bless,
Laurel Grieve ■



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Lower level of Stedman's Mail

G20 Summit Plans Will Likely Upstage G8

... from pg. 1

Smith even suggested that the G8 in Huntsville could be reduced to a formal luncheon.

One day before Harper's announcement this week, the County Voice contacted Calum Rankin who is a Community Relations Officer with the G8 Integrated Security Unit. Rankin could not confirm or deny the rumours that activities in Muskoka would be curtailed in any way. He said that his unit was still planning for the G8 in Muskoka. At that time Rankin said he had received no instructions with respect to the G20.

While he confirmed that the G20 will likely be held in Toronto Rankin would only say, "It could well happen, but we have received no instructions at this point." Rankin also confirmed that the ISU had planned previous summits on very short notice and that the norm for planning was three months. He said, "Given their past history, there is still a lot of time to plan and respond to a different location."

The next morning, Rankin confirmed reports that the G20 would be held in Toronto, but could not comment on any changes in planning for the G8 or confirm that the impact on Muskoka and the northern portion of Haliburton County would be reduced in any way. He did confirm that members of the ISU would be meeting with Haliburton County Council in January, and would have more information to impart at that time.

The ISU's Media Relations contacts were also unable to provide much clarification on the matter. Leo Monbourquette from the ISU advised the Voice that details about dates and venues, or the loss that may be suffered by Huntsville would have to come out of the Summit Management Office or the community of Huntsville itself. "The government puts on the summits. We just supply the security."

Monbourquette said, "There may be changes as far as access and restrictions, but the levels of security will remain the same. What we do know now is that the ISU will be responsible for both the G8 and G20 as the events are similar and are being held in the same general region. We're still moving forward with planning for the G8 in Muskoka and see no difference in how our security plans will move forward."

"For us, security is security. An environment or area must be as secure as possible to ensure the safety of dignitaries regardless of whether it is for one day or two or more." Monbourquette said it was still too early to be able to provide additional information, given that the Prime Minister has just announced that Toronto would be hosting the G20.

Responses to questions submitted to the Summit Management Office in Huntsville were somewhat sketchy but they did confirm that a full G8 summit would still take place in Huntsville and that it would not be impacted by the G20.

Monbourquette, however, suggested that changes were possible and one should draw their own conclusions.

So it could well be that Barack Obama and other world leaders will be going to Toronto and they may still be scheduled to go to Muskoka, but it's also quite possible that they won't be there for much more than lunch.

In the meantime questions by residents of Dorset and Oxtongue, who have been concerned for months about restrictions in travel or access to medical services and goods during their busiest season, remain unanswered. ■

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Minden Council Considers 2010 Budget

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The Minden Hills Finance Committee is taking a very proactive approach to budget deliberations for 2010 and has already started a series of in depth meetings with their department heads. On first blush, their financial position appears to be much healthier than their starting position at the beginning of the year.

Committee Chair Peter Oyler told committee members that they should start by considering some of their bigger ticket items that could substantially influence their final budget figures. He asked Treasurer Lorrie Blanchard where the municipality stood with respect to their 2009 deficit and how their year- end position lined up, "barring any train wrecks."

Blanchard reported that as of the end of October the municipality stood to have a $649,650 surplus. Of that balance, $333,000 would be required for the municipality to overcome their 2008 year end deficit, approximately $150,000 represented a water and sewer surplus and would remain in the water/sewer account and approximately $160,000 would remain in their general accounts. According to Blanchard these amounts do not include approximately $60,000 that will be realized from supplementary assessments being reported by MPAC.

Blanchard advised the Committee that she had detailed those items that would have the largest impact on their draft budget, adding that the department heads were fully aware that the existing numbers may not be realistic. According to Blanchard larger items that are included at this time have been brought forward only as an indication of items that will have to be considered or given attention in the future and that it may be that some items should be dealt with through a five year process 'rather than waiting to the bitter end to deal with them.'

According to Blanchard there are four things that will have a substantial impact on the municipality's bottom line that she could only estimate at this time. She reported that she would not have the assessment roll until December the 15th, that the actual policing costs were not yet available, that there had been no clear indication of what the municipality stands to receive through the province's Municipal Partnership Fund and finally that she would have to wait for the year end to determine the municipality's actual financial position.

The Clerk's department was discussed first and the only concerns raised were related to election costs for 2010 and legislated requirements for accessibility. Clerk Cheryl McCarroll reported that government requirements for improving accessibility were becoming very aggressive and that it would be wise to continue to budget accordingly.

Discussions then turned to the Fire Department where the purchase of a new pumper truck was identified as a big ticket item, costing approximately $360,000. Fire Chief Doug Schell advised Council that the replacement of fire trucks was governed by the insurance underwriters. According to Schell first line pumpers have a 20-year life expectancy in smaller municipalities and theirs was due for replacement. At the present time there is approximately $150,000 remaining in reserves that would be applied against this purchase.

Discussion about purchasing the pumper truck included the fact that it may be possible, depending on when the truck is ordered and delivery takes place, that the cost could be distributed over two years. This item was flagged for further discussion.

During the second day of discussions, the Building, By-law Enforcement and Planning portion of the budget was discussed. Animal control factored into this discussion considerably. Chief Building Official Ken Jones advised the Committee that he had been unable to find comparable estimates to determine the actual cost of providing this service. Jones said that he was exploring the possibility of a division of responsibilities between the municipality and Beech Tree Farms, who have submitted a proposal to Council for consideration and are scheduled to make a presentation this week.

Another item that could have considerable impact on this portion of the budget is the possibility of hiring a by-law enforcement officer for the summer months. This item was held over for discussion during a closed session.

According to the Planning Act, next year the municipality will be required to conduct a review of their Official Plan, a project with an estimated cost of $71,000. Oyler suggested that this was another item that could be phased in over two years. Jones confirmed that it would not be unreasonable to consider starting the process in 2010 and completing the project in 2011. The Committee were concerned with the cost and asked for a more detailed breakdown.

Discussions are continuing with Community Services and Recreation, the Cultural Centre and the Roads Department up next for discussion. ■

County Council Requests Blanket Underserviced Designation

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The County Council has agreed to send a request to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care asking that the Underserviced Area Program, presently under review, include an option that would allow the underserviced designation to be applied to the entire County rather than the four individual municipalities.

In a report to County Council last week, CAO Jim Wilson said that the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is looking at revamping their existing program to recognize and assist areas that are experiencing a serious shortage of family physicians. "There will be a new method of funding in areas where there are shortages," he said.

Wilson reported that the UAP was established in 1969 in response to the need to recruit and retain more health professionals in Northern Ontario. Since that time, the role has gradually expanded to address the issue in rural and remote southern communities as well.

The Ministry recently conducted a consultation process to consider how to reduce these challenges that ended on September 30th. Over 200 submissions were received and, according to the Ministry's website, they are now being 'weighed carefully, along with other evidence and considerations.'

According to Wilson, under the current program conditions, a community must be officially designated as underserviced in order to access the UAP's recruitment and retention benefits. At the present time, while Highlands East has been making efforts to receive the same designation, Minden Hills and Dysart are the only municipalities within the County that currently have the designation.

Wilson reported that 'the Ministry is considering changes to the program in order to
meet the unique requirements of northern and rural communities facing chronic challenges recruiting and retaining physicians and to help all Ontario communities experiencing physician shortages.'

He wrote, "Under the proposed new program, every municipality would receive a rurality index scoring based on measuring distance from enhanced medical services." He further reported that under the new program all of the four local municipalities in the County would qualify for assistance.

Wilson told Council that Warden Dave Burton and Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison had met with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health who had advised them that the Ministry was looking at allowing a designated service area to be based on individual census areas.

Burton and Harrison were suggesting that the program be further modified to include an option that would allow the entire upper tier to have the underserviced designation rather than each municipality pursuing it individually.

The rationale for this included the fact that only one regional recruitment committee would have to be dedicated to recruiting physicians for any location within the County and that, given limited resources (volunteers, time and money), a single committee would better be able to address the needs of the County overall.

Wilson said that they would also like to encourage the establishment of increased funding for other medical professionals, in efforts to attract them to the area.

Wilson said, "In our case, the banker for the recruitment committee and its activities is the County of Haliburton." He acknowledged that the option might not work in all circumstances and could create some issues of duplication, but that the proposed options would provide for greater flexibility for the County.

Harrison advised Council that the issue had come forward earlier in the year when their Recruitment Committee had initiated the request for the entire County to be designated as under- serviced. "Because of this report, we will not have to go through that process. This is our opportunity to say how we would like to be considered." Harrison also suggested that the Family Health Team's ability to continue with recruitment is limited given financial constraints. She concluded her comments by saying that the Council should request more money for nurse practitioners, given how their efforts can reduce the doctors' time significantly.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey supported Harrison's suggestion and a resolution was passed authorizing a letter to the Ministry requesting the changes. ■

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County Continues to Consider Trails & Tours

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Last week the County Economic Development & Tourism Committee further considered the most appropriate path to follow given Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours decision to close their doors.

Economic Development & Tourism Director Bob Smith reported that his Department has the ability to continue with some of the responsibilities currently held by Trails and Tours in its role of managing the Rail Trail for the County.

"Responsibilities for Rail Trail management would be split between the Roads Department and Economic Development. Roads would undertake trail inspections and maintenance while Economic Development would provide promotional services, responding to phone and e-mail inquiries, issuing permits and collecting associated fees." Smith said that this could be undertaken within the current staffing.

Beyond Rail Trail management Smith had a number of concerns related to other services that had been initiated and hosted by Trails and Tours. According to Smith, the most notable of these would be the "Hike Haliburton Festival' and the proposed enhancement of mineral tourism. He suggested facilitating a meeting with various trail stakeholders to seek their input and bringing a report back to the Committee for further consideration and discussion, adding that he had already held meetings to determine the most prudent way to proceed with the Mineral Tourism proposal.

Smith also reported that an application slated to be submitted to the Trillium Foundation for mineral tourism and previously supported by the Committee had not been submitted. However, he did report that he has held discussions with Judy Coward of the Ontario Ministry of Food Agriculture and Rural Affairs and representatives of the Trillium Foundation.

According to Smith, Coward has advised that a submission for a three year program would be acceptable through their Rural Economic Development Program, using the County's present allocation of $43,000 (used for the contract with Trails and Tours) as the County's contribution. Smith said that the Trillium Foundation had also indicated that a similar application would also be acceptable and that discussions with HCDC suggested there could be support for a mineral tourism proposal, but possibly to a lesser extent than originally proposed.

Smith advised the committee that with little or no additional funding allocations he felt the Committee would be able to maintain the status quo. With additional funding from OMAFRA (or Trillium), the County should be able to not only improve trail infrastructure to some extent, but also offset the cost of engaging a staff person to carry out many of the activities currently under the umbrella of Trails & Tours. According to Smith, that individual would also be able to enhance existing tour opportunities and improve existing marketing capabilities.

With the decision by Trail and Tours to wind up their affairs by the end of the year, CAO Jim Wilson confirmed that the County would need to assign staff to deal with the day to day business of the Rail Trail. In a separate report to the Committee, he made several recommendations that supported Smith's comments. Wilson recommended that responsibility for the Rail Trail as well as those duties previously carried out by Trails and Tours come under the overall umbrella of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee. He suggested that additional funding be allocated to improving a minimum of three kilometres of the rail trail each year, that the roads department continue to inspect and maintain the trail and that existing tourism staff assume all administrative responsibilities.

Wilson supported the Roads Department taking a more active role in inspecting the Rail Trail corridor and that various user groups be encouraged to contribute volunteer time to maintain the trail.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey commented that the Chamber of Commerce was doing well and suggested asking if they would like to become involved with the Hike Haliburton Festival. He also suggested trying to establish whatever partnerships they could with other area groups and organizations.

In further discussion about funding applications, Smith commented that the overall goal was not to create another staff person, but that some form of 'spinoff organization' assume Trails and Tours responsibilities and carry on with them.

In response to a suggestion by Fearrey that a contract position be established, Smith commented that OMAFRA's Rural Economic Development Program requires any program that they fund be sustainable.

Smith confirmed that he was simply seeking some direction, but wasn't asking for any commitment at the present time from the Committee.

Fearrey, who said he wasn't shy about asking for funding, said that he was unsure of their ability to provide any guarantee to OMAFRA that the program would continue. Smith, however, advised that part of the program would be to determine what funding could be found to sustain the program as well as continuing with things like preparation of brochures, marketing and mineral tourism.

The Committee agreed that overall, they were working towards establishing affordable recreation and it was agreed that Smith should continue to investigate sources of funding. ■

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Santa Goes to the Dogs .... and Cats, and Horses

On Saturday, December 5th, the Minden Emergency Animal Care team held its first "pet photos with Santa" Christmas fund-raiser. Several dozen four-legged celebrants, including a miniature horse, cozied up to Santa while their "people" could only imagine Christmas wish lists overflowing with new rawhides, balls, collars, treats and well wishes for their less fortunate brethren.

MEAC was established in 2007 by a group of concerned residents to assist sick and injured animals in the Minden area. Too many abandoned and injured pets were left to suffer and die alone due to a lack of facilities in the county. In order to keep the program running, MEAC relies on funds raised through its annual pet photo calendar contest, summer "Wuffstock" celebration, (dog and car wash) photos with Santa and donations from generous animal lovers.

MEAC's 2010 calendars are now available at a variety of locations. They make wonderful stocking stuffers and all proceeds go directly to helping abandoned, sick and/or injured animals. MEAC members can be contacted through their web site at http://www.meac2007.com or by calling 705-286-1302 for general inquiries. There is always a need for volunteers and financial assistance to help alleviate the suffering of sick and injured animals, and to find them loving homes once they are healthy. Anyone finding an animal that is sick and/or injured and in need of medical attention can call MEAC's emergency number 705- 286-4971. ■

Photos & Story By:
Lyn Winans

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Are Helicopters and Shorelines a Good Mix?

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Catch 22 seems to be the 'catch' phrase of the day when it comes to purchasing shore road allowances from municipalities. This week the Highlands East Council was caught in a quandary when it came to a request to purchase the shore road allowance by Bruce Lakie who owns waterfront property on Monck Lake.

It all started when the municipality's Chief Building Official Randy Dunsmore discovered that a platform had been constructed on the water's edge of Lakie's property without the benefit of a permit. The platform had been built on the shore road allowance owned by the municipality. Dunsmore ordered the removal of the structure in August of 2008.

Lakie responded to the order by applying to purchase the shore road allowance several months later. While the acquisition was approved in principle by Council, it was subject to circulation and comment by the neighbours.

In fact the structure was actually a well built helipad being used by Lakie on a regular basis and the neighbours weren't very happy about it. One neighbour's complaint was registered during the circulation process.

Lakie subsequently discounted his neighbour's concerns and again asked Council to proceed. However, both Dunsmore and Clerk Irene Cook reported that they had received other complaints from neighbours about the structure and the regular use of a helicopter on the lake; the concerns included issues of safety and noise.

Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie suggested that the matter should be the jurisdiction of Transport Canada and Dunsmore agreed that it could fall under federal jurisdiction. In response to a question from Councillor Suzanne Partridge, Dunsmore confirmed that the primary issue was that the structure had been built on municipal property without benefit of a permit.

Sound familiar? Very similar concerns were recently raised by the Dysart Council. In essence, you can't get a building permit unless you own the property (in this case the shoreline allowance) and you can't purchase the shoreline allowance without first removing derelict or unauthorized structures.

Dunsmore said, "That's why Lakie wants to purchase the property; in order to legalize the status of the helipad."

CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig recommended that the purchase of the property not go through until the question of the helipad and whether it could legally remain on a residential property was resolved.

Mackie said, "There are two issues here. Is this a built up area and is the structure sound?" Dunsmore confirmed that there are neighbours on both sides of Lakie's property and that the structure looked sound. "It looks professionally constructed. It's just in the wrong spot," he said.

Mackie asked the Council members if they would normally sell the property and Stoughton-Craig confirmed that it would not normally be a problem. This situation, however, appeared to be just a bit more complicated.

Dunsmore reiterated that a number of people had complained about the use of the helipad. He also confirmed that the helipad was used year round. According to Dunsmore the primary concern was one of safety, but Mackie argued that it was not unusual for float planes to land on many of the area lakes.

The discussion went back and forth, arguing the merits of simply selling the property and allowing the development to be legalized, of having the helipad removed prior to considering a sale, and contacting Transport Canada to determine the legality of the helipad in a residential area.

Mackie asked, "So, is the objective to make him tear it out, only to allow it to be rebuilt after he buys the land? Is it our business or a Transport Canada concern?" Again he asked if the helipad was torn down, whether the municipality would consider the sale and all seemed to agree that they probably would.

Mackie said, "Then sell him the property and let him deal with Transport Canada and the neighbours." But Stoughton-Craig reiterated that their policies did not allow the sale when there was an illegal structure in place.

Mackie said, "I agree that he has built where he shouldn't have, but what is the object of the game here. We have already ascertained that it should not have been built." Mackie added that to ask Lakie to tear down the helipad seemed crazy and counterproductive.

Partridge suggested deferring any decision until an opinion was sought from Transport Canada. Dunsmore suggested that depending on the response from Transport Canada, the municipality may not be able to regulate the helipad even if Lakie was allowed to purchase the shoreline allowance.

Dunsmore suggested that one solution would be to include stipulations as part of the sale, depending on the response from the federal government. He also commented that there were environmental concerns about fuel being drained into the lake during takeoff.

Despite having received and approved the application to purchase in principle last fall and discounting the fact that Lakie had asked them to proceed regardless of the position of his neighbour, Council passed a resolution confirming that they could not approve the sale until the disposition of the illegal structure was resolved to their satisfaction. ■

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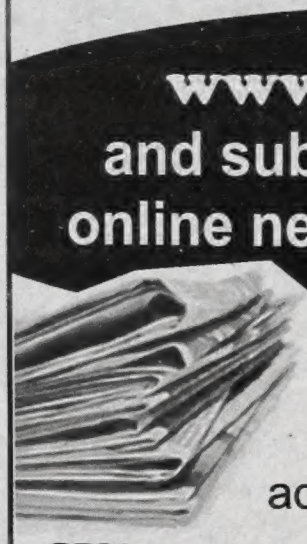

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$3000 Fine for Constructing Trail on Crown Land

A Toronto-area man has been fined $3,000 for constructing a new section of trail on Crown land in the heart of the Haliburton Highlands in South Central Ontario.

Dudley Hookong pleaded guilty to building a trail on public land without a work permit in violation of the Public Lands Act.

Court was told that a conservation officer found a newly constructed portion of trail in June 2009. Further investigation revealed that Hookong had used a bulldozer to reroute an existing all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile trail around some difficult areas near his cottage at Koshlong Lake.

Justice of the Peace Diane Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on December 3, 2009.

The public is reminded that, under the Public Lands Act, a work permit is required to construct or alter a trail on public land. A permit ensures natural resources remain healthy and sustainable for generations to come.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ■

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Warden's Banquet a Big Hit

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Oh what a night! Over 140 people including County Council and staff, Council members and employees from the four municipalities, dignitaries and special guests packed into the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre in Wilberforce recently to enjoy the 2009 Warden's Banquet hosted by Warden Dave Burton.

In his welcoming comments, Burton said, "In order for me to do my duty as Warden, I have had to have a very strong Council and staff." Burton introduced the County Council as well as his own Highlands East Council and recognized the extraordinary efforts of Highlands East CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig.

MP Barry Devolin and MPP Rick Johnson were the first guest speakers to offer their best wishes to Warden Burton and the County Council for their achievements throughout the year.

Devolin, whose mother's family came from the historic Cheddar area of Highlands East, told a humorous little story about his grandfather, who had three wives and 27 children. According to Devolin, his grandfather's first wife was buried on his right side and his second wife on his left. "He made these decisions himself," he said. His grandfather was next to pass away and his third wife decided to be buried across the feet of the her husband and his first two wives. Devolin said, "It sounds like it couldn't be true, but if you take a flashlight to the cemetery later...."

Devolin said that he had enjoyed working with Burton. "Politics is a hurly whirly world," he said, commenting that in Ottawa he is relatively anonymous. "But you are all here every day, doing a constant job and I hope that one day we will be here celebrating your 25th anniversary, given the history of long service that reeves have in the County."

"Politics is a hurly whirly world." (Barry Devolin)

Burton then introduced those who had served as Warden in the past including Jim Harrison (1979), Bill Howe (1983), Jim McMahon (1993 and 2005), Elva Bates (1999), Eleanor Harrison (2002 and 2008), Bill Davis (2004) and finally Murray Fearrey, who has worn the chain of office as County Warden nine times between 1974 and 2007.

Top: County Warden and Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton . Above: County Warden Burton and CAO Jim Wilson with Anniversary Honorees

Ron Emond, Reeve of Hastings Highlands, Warden of Hastings County and Chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus brought greetings from his CAO Jim Pine and staff. In his comments, Emond called Burton a statesman who represents the County of Haliburton in an extremely professional manner.

Emond was followed by City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Ric McGee, who said how proud he was to be a son of Haliburton County and called Burton a 'first class guy' who had done a lot of good work for the county. He said, "We all win together and lose together and I'm proud to be a colleague of yours and to have the opportunity to work with you."

Burton and County CAO Jim Wilson then presented the County's long service awards to staff who had achieved increments of 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service. This was the first year that the new policy has been implemented and staff was recognized in this way.

Fifteen-year service awards were presented to Don Toews, Tom Watson and Drew Winfield of the Roads Department along with Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk. Twenty-year awards were presented to Rob Billings, Larry Donaldson and Brian Swanson and 25 year awards to Doug Ray and Ken Garron (all Roads Department staff) and finally a 30 year service award was presented to Shayne McKelvey.

Awards will also be presented to other Roads Department staff who couldn't attend the banquet, including Lorne Patterson (15 years), Larry Smith and Terry Hogan (20 years), Shirley Kirk and Brian Mulholland (25 years), Mike Simms (30 years) and to Brad Bryant and Bryan Neville for 35 years of service.

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison, who has been a long time friend and colleague of Murray Fearrey's, was then called upon to present the award to the Warden's Golf Classic winning team. According to Harrison, Fearrey, who has been responsible for organizing the event each year, has been part of the winning team five times. As she presented him with a unique trophy, Harrison said that Fearrey was very good at pulling the best golfers out of the mix to load his team and was even better at marking his cards. "This year," she said, "he even had the auditor on his team."

An sumptuous dinner complete with a positively sinful dessert concoction was prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Wilberforce Legion Branch 624. ■

Pinestone Resort Appoints New General Manager

Stefan Bjelis has been appointed the new general manager of the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre in Haliburton. He started on Monday 7th December after "conversations that had been happening for sometime." Bjelis says that he is "very excited to take on the role and serve locals. I'm excited to go with the flow and I'm looking forward to the future." Bjelis aims to "enhance the area and not to make any changes." Bjelis was the manager of Windermere Cottage Resort and has had more than 25 years of varied business knowledge including director of sales at GEO Holiday and as a financial advisor.

This week a number of senior personnel were reportedly laid off for the winter. Bjelis refused to confirm whether or not existing events such as the Highlands Cup snowmobile races and the annual Dog Sledding derby would be going ahead as scheduled at the resort. Bjelis said that it was too early to talk about specifics. ■

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Simon Reynolds at the Beaver Theatre

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

Filmmaking was once kept to the ranks of the rich and experienced but with modern technology creeping into households worldwide it seems everyone has a chance to become a Spielberg or Scorcese. From films such as the Blair Witch Project (1999) and more recently Little Miss Sunshine (2006) independently produced cinema has been at the forefront in movie theatres over the past decade, becoming much more popular. Independent movies allows for more creative choices to be made by the production team and furthermore create a chance for original and unique scripts to be launched. The archaic Hollywood Studio system had long reigned over film making decisions but there were always the independents who were wishing to push the boundaries like Salvador Dali or Lars von Trier who wanted to bring filmmaking back to basics, further allowing for the everyday Joe to create something special.

Highlands Media Arts (HMA) has brought new media to the residents of Haliburton County allowing filmmaking to become an expansive ownership and creative body. HMA has also expanded its creative reach by introducing the Haliburton International Film Festival (HIFF). On November 21st The Beaver Theatre hosted the third annual HIFF. Among films from across the globe, it featured one particular gem, Only (2008). The coming of age story chronicles the life of a boy who has his ordinary life turned upside down when he meets a girl who stays at his parents' motel. The 74 minute film follows just one day in the two characters life's and the experiences they encounter and the feelings of first love begin to escape. Based loosely on the life of Ingrid Veninger who co-wrote and co-directed the film along with Simon Reynolds, a Canadian born actor who recently turned his hand to creating the magic behind the lens. Reynolds spoke at the Beaver Theatre to a captivated crowd and answered a range of questions about the conception of the movie to the challenges and triumphs.

With a budget of less than $50,000 and their credit cards maxed the twosome had little in the way of monetary funds but they had a dream and they were determined to realize it. Once the dream had been fulfilled it was the distributing that the couple experienced difficulty with. Reynolds explains that "it's hard to get people to buy or see a film if you don't have a known actor in it. Its hard to market to prospective buyers so many agents told us that they loved our film but that they just wouldn't be able to buy or sell it. We ended up distributing it ourselves and with a sales agent. It's had a theatrical release in Australia and in Italy too, where it had five days of straight showings which sold out every day. Once you have that word of month from screenings it inevitably becomes bigger."

The film was shot on location in Parry Sound over just fifteen days. The leading male character Daniel lives at a motel that his parents own and manage. "We shot in the same motel that Ingrid grew up in, her parents used to own the motel and she would often daydream that the situation in the movie would happen to her" laughs Reynolds. Thus the scriptwriting process began with the partners co-writing the script, "there weren't any squabbles or fights. My previous script had been about childhood and we were both on the same tracks. Ingrid would write a portion, hand it back to me and we'd carry on until it was finished."

Reynolds says that he enjoyed shooting the film outside of a chaotic city, "it's much easier to shoot in rural areas and people are calmer and friendlier. You have no location problems and you can really execute what you set out to do."

Only has achieved spectacular success; it was the 'Official selection at the Toronto International Film Festival 2008 (TIFF)', and Tammy Rea from HMA says that "for a film to be under $50,000 and to be in the TIFF is just unheard of." It won Audience award for Best Film at Possible Worlds Film Festival in Sydney 2008, along with showing at other worldwide and Canadian film festivals. According to Reynolds the film won over Italian audiences and apparently Italians are not so welcoming to subtitles: "the film was dubbed instead so at one particular showing they had this guy who had meticulously studied the script for hours. I only found out on the day that he was going to play both parts so you have this middle aged guy playing this young girl and boy. I thought it was going to be a terrible idea but for some crazy reason it actually worked and he turned out to be a great actor," laughs Reynolds.

Only is the little film that could. It is not only an inspiring film but it is also inspiring story to those upcoming struggling filmmakers who may not have the backing of a Hollywood superstar or millions of dollars but need a little reassurance that their script could just be the best thing yet. ■

Flu Shot Clinic

Seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine now available.

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- Please do not attend the clinic if you have a fever, new or worsening cough or body aches.

What to bring?

- Ontario Health Card and Driver's Licence

Where is the clinic?

Haliburton: Royal Canadian Legion, Mountain St.
Monday, December 14 from noon to 7 pm

Please check website regularly for updates.

HKPR Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
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Website: www.hkpr.on.ca

Police Reports

Motor Vehicle Collision

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment were called to investigate a motor vehicle collision on County Rd #4 in Highlands East Township yesterday afternoon.

Also responding to the scene were members of the Highlands East Fire Department and EMS personnel.

The investigation revealed that a Ford Explorer was eastbound on County Rd #4 heading towards Wilberforce. The vehicle crossed into the westbound lane before entering the north ditch, where it rolled over.

The driver of the vehicle Richard Ayotte 56 years of Highlands East Township and a passenger in the vehicle were taken by ambulance to the Haliburton Highlands Hospital suffering from non-life threatening injuries.

The investigation is continuing. ■

Fill a Cruiser with Food

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment will be having their annual "Fill a Cruiser with Food ", campaign next week.

On Tuesday December 15, 2009, officers will be at Todd's Independent from 10:00am to 12:00pm trying to fill a cruiser with food. The officers will then proceed over to the Haliburton Foodland until 2:00pm. All donated food will be given to the 4 C's.

On Wednesday December 16, 2009, officers will be at the Wilberforce Foodland from 10:00am until 1:00pm attempting to fill a cruiser with food. All donated food will then be taken to the Word of Life Food Bank in Wilberforce.

On Friday December 18, 2009 officers will be at the Minden Valu-Mart from 10:00am until noon. The officers will then proceed over to the Minden IGA where they will accept donations until 2:00pm. All the donations will then be turned over to Minden Food Bank. ■

Driver Charged Impaired

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment charged a Peterborough man this past weekend after stopping his vehicle while conducting a R.I.D.E. program.

On Saturday December 5, 2009 at approximately 9:30am an officer from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment stopped a vehicle in the area of County Rd#1 and Lochlin Rd. The officer had conversation with the driver who was given a roadside screening device test.

The driver was arrested after failing the test. He was then taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Jeremy Lawrence Hutchings, 24 years of Peterborough has been charged with Drive Over 80mgs, Breach of Probation, Failing to Attend Court and numerous Provincial Offences Act violations. Mr Hutchings will be appearing in Minden court on January 6, 2010. ■

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Have Your Say... VOX POP

Do you like the snow? Does the cold bother you? What do you like about winter? How does this weather affect your daily routine?

Ginger Muenzel, Haliburton
I like snow I don't have to shovel. What I don't like is the dirty, sloppy snow I have to walk through. I don't mind winter at all, except for the ice. We have to think a lot more about whatever we're doing outside, especially if it's slippery or icy. If it's icy, you have to be a lot more careful when you're out walking. We may not even go outside if it's too icy, that's really the only time our routine really changes in the winter. ■

Helen Packard, Haliburton
Snow doesn't bother me, I like the snow, I have memories of my kids making snowman, rolling and playing in the yard. The cold doesn't really bother me either, just have to bundle up for it, I'm used to it by now. I like Christmas time a lot, best part of winter time. I don't do any winter driving, so I never have to worry too much about the roads in that sense. ■

Kathy McIlmurray, West Guilford
I love the snow, it's great for skiing, snowmobiling, all winter sports. I have a daughter who loves to ski. The snow is great for the economy in Haliburton. Plus, the trees just look so beautiful. The cold doesn't bother me too much, I just have to dress up for it. What I don't like is how dark it is all the time. It's like you get up in the dark, go to work, and then come home in the dark. I like it when it's light out. I have to get up earlier to brush off my car for work, 20 minutes earlier than normal because I have to drive all the way to Minden. ■

Mina Saunders, Wilberforce
No I don't like this weather, it's too cold. I don't like all the clothes you have to wear, layers you have to put on, but I guess you have to put up with it. I have to stay inside more because of the cold. Fortunately, I don't have to worry about doing any winter driving and bad road conditions because I don't do any driving. My husband does all the driving; he's used to driving in the winter so it doesn't bother him. ■

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman

Sacrifice Protests

Animal welfare and religious groups have condemned the world's largest animal sacrifice that took place during late November in southern Nepal. Approximately 200,000 animals and birds were slaughtered at the Gadhimai temple in Nepal's Bariyapur village in a ritual conducted every five years, dating back to the 19th century. "If I give you a rough estimate, around 20,000 (water) buffaloes, 30,000 to 35,000 goats and countless birds and pigeons are ... sacrificed," said Mahesh Jha, a temple priest. The animals were beheaded or otherwise slaughtered to appease the goddess Gadhimai, end evil and bring about prosperity. Such sacrifices by Hindus are common on a much smaller scale across Nepal. But members of the faith elsewhere say there is no justification in the ancient text for such cruelty to animals. "It is against Hindu religion and way of life," Animal Rights Nepal said in a statement.

Melted Armada

Scientists in New Zealand say the armada of icebergs that was approaching the South Island during late November has been blown away from land by strong westerly winds. Oceanographer Mike Williams of New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research said that melting and erosion by waves have probably made the hundreds of individual icebergs so small that they can no longer be seen on satellite images. The icebergs were fractured parts of ice floes that split off Antarctica between 2000 and 2002, when parts of two major ice shelves, the Ross Sea Ice Shelf and Ronne Ice Shelf, fractured. Before being blown away and melted, one of the largest was 650 feet wide.

Volcanic Blackouts

A series of ash showers from ongoing activity within Montserrat's Soufriere Hills volcano has caused numerous power failures in recent weeks, according to Montserrat Utilities Ltd. Managing director Peter White said the outages have resulted from ash shorting out power lines. But some blackouts have resulted from lightning strikes that were generated within the towering columns of ash that soared high above the Caribbean island. Ash has recently fallen over the small portion of the island still safe to inhabit, especially in Olveston and Olde Town. Montserrat Volcano Observatory director Paul Cole said a small pyroclastic flow of super-heated debris reached the ocean as part of Soufriere Hills' dome collapsed. The volcano roared back to life in 1995, killing 19 people and destroying much of the British territorial island.

South American Floods

A spate of severe storms and flooding across southern Brazil, Uruguay and northeastern Argentina killed more than 20 people, forced thousands of others from their homes and inflicted $2 billion in damage to Brazil alone. Storm damage to a hydroelectric facility plunged hundreds of thousands of residents of Argentina and Paraguay into darkness. Many communities were inundated when the Uruguay and Parana rivers overflowed their banks due to days of torrential rainfall. The floods came in the wake of the worst drought to strike Paraguay and neighboring parts of Argentina in 50 years. The drought had been blamed on the current El Niño ocean-warming phenomenon in the tropical Pacific, which meteorologists say is strengthening.

Earthquakes

A relatively minor earthquake centered just off Bulgaria's Black Sea coast prompted the brief evacuation of about 1,000 schoolchildren in the nearby town of Kavarna. No significant damage was reported.

• Earth movements were also felt in China's Sichuan aftershock zone, central New Zealand and Southern California's Orange County.

Tropical Cyclone

Typhoon Nida zigzagged across the western Pacific as it moved on a general northwesterly course for a second week. Once a dangerous Category-5 storm, Nida weakened over the cooler waters of the North Pacific.

Camel Invasion

A parching drought and early summertime heat wave have driven 6,000 wild camels into a remote Australian Outback village, terrorizing its 350 inhabitants. The rampaging animals have torn up water mains and sewage pipes in the community of Docker River, and have even damaged air conditioners after being drawn to tiny pools of condensed water that had accumulated on the units. Residents have been forced to remain indoors as virtual prisoners in their own homes. The Northern Territory government says it will drive the thirsty animals out of town with helicopters, then shoot them and allow their carcasses to decay in the desert. Camels are not native to Australia, but explorers imported them during the 1880s to help them venture across the desert.

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Sovereignty Group in Court

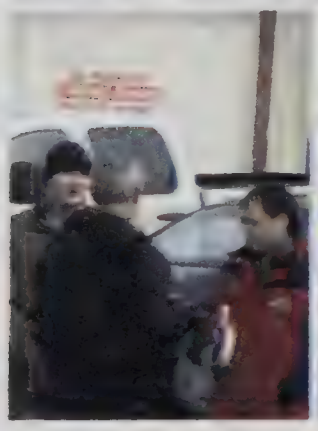
By Zoe Cittern

They didn't want to speak and they didn't set about to get attention as they did the last time they were in town: last Wednesday, December 2nd members of the 'sovereignty group' attended court after being charged with 'unlawful entry' after an alleged break in at a Kennisis Lake cottage on November 10th. The six charged members; Victor Beck, 51, Alexandre Nault, 27, Yakim Belair, 25, William Russ, 49, Diann Turkington, 62 and Doug Baskin, 44 all showed up in different cars and at different times with their trusty film crew covering the event. The film crew who allegedly are on the film production course at Niagara College said that "we don't know what they've been doing since they were arrested, I guess just staying at home." The students also provided a vague description of how they knew the group, stating that "it's from a friend of a friend, that kind of thing" said one film crew member.

The six accused believe that it is their God given right to get things such as food and housing for free: charges were brought against them after they allegedly shoplifted at IGA in Minden on October 6th although the Crown later dropped the charges..

Before the group entered the court, Russ said that they were trying "to keep focused for the court hearing and that they didn't want to answer any questions. It's just a quick showing, we'll be in and then out fairly quick." The six members were called to the stand when Alexandre Nault asked if the group could speak to duty council. Their second court hearing has been set for January 6th, 2010 and before then they will apply for legal aid something that the judge said that it was "a slim chance" of them getting.

The group members quickly left the court room and dispersed once again into separate vehicles. The group still did not want to comment on anything yet Victor Beck said that "something is planned for the future we are just deciding the process of when it's going to happen. We'll let you know when we are ready to talk but everything is already planned for what we're going to do next, its just deciding when we'll do it." ■



Above...The camera crew who have been following the sovereignty group antics wait outside the court for them

Far left... The film crew talks to Yakim Belair (red jacket) and Victor Beck (black jacket) members of the sovereignty group

Left... Victor Beck approaches the municipal offices for his court hearing

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Food For Kids Snack Program

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

Bob and Wendy Parks owners of Foodland in Haliburton have generously donated an amazing $8,350 to support the Food for Kids program set up at two local schools. The money was split equally between Stuart Baker Elementary and J.D Hodgson Elementary. The money was put towards the healthy snack programs at both schools which provide students with vegetables, fruits and whole grains. Over both schools 750 students are helped to gain a nutritious snack. At Stuart Baker the money also contributed toward the daily breakfast program. Currently in Haliburton County, these programs provide more than 3,500 breakfasts or snacks per week to local pupils. Studies have shown that giving children access to safe and nutritious food their learning is improved in classrooms providing an all rounded student. The snacks are dished out every Tuesday and Thursdays of the week.

The snack program is currently helped by eight volunteers; Mary Johnson, Tina and Gerald Hadley, Mary Nesbitt, Lisa Wyer, Jan Edward, Anna Nichol and Nancy Ballantyne. Two children from the Grade Eight class also help and every other week two students from the High School contribute.

Angela McGreevy the co-ordinator for the volunteers says that "I saw the value in it straight away; I'm really happy to be involved. The kids usually come rushing up to grab the snack and see what it is." Bob and Wendy have contributed a staggering amount of money towards the program over the years, it is the eighth year of funding that they have donated equalling approximately $75,000 over the eight years. Bob says that he has "a passion for young kids, I remember when I was a kid and not having lunch at school. I've heard that there has been a tremendous turn around in the children's learning ability since the snack program was introduced." ■

Front row from left to right: grade eight kids; Jake Ruddell, Taylor Rowbothan, Ryan vanLieshout, Tanisha Gordon. Back row from left to right: volunteers Mary Johnson, Gerald Hadley, Bob Parks manager of Foodland, Tina Hadley, Mary Nesbitt and co-ordinator Angela McGreevy.

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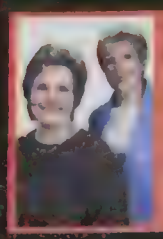

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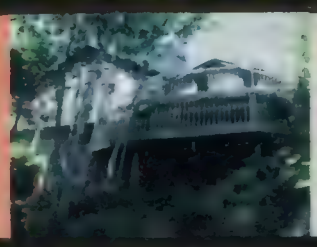

Kennisis Lake - $479,000

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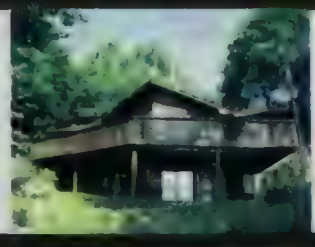
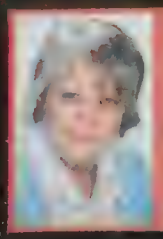


Little Kennisis Lake - $449,700

Viceroy Style Cottage, private lot w 137` rocky frtg. Southern open view. Elevated driveway to open level area. 2 large stone fp, cathedral ceilings, custom kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths & den. Fully finished basement w/large family Rm, laundry, utility & walkout, creating over 2800 of living space Charm & character abound.



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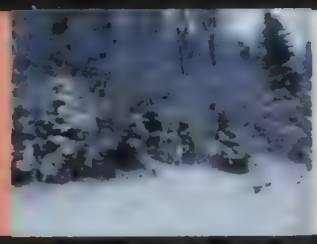
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 33



Six Acres Overlooking Minden - $42,900

Large building lot with the most beautiful view overlooking the town of Minden. The driveway was roughed in at one time, hydro & telephone available close by. Several nice level plateau's for building with lots of mature trees.

Deeded Access To South Lake - $129,900

Awesome little 2 bdrm house/cottage offering year round use and year round access. Cute and cozy, bright and clean featuring new shingles in 2008 and a high efficiency propane furnace too. A nice 3 pc bath has just been redecorated and the building is equiped with all thermopane windows a couple of sheds and a nice level lot. Add to this deeded access to South Lake just across the rd and you've got a nice starter package.

Elizabeth Thompson
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 248

The Bayou Cottage-1157 Illman Rd-Lot 1 - $449,000

Stothart Creek Bayou Cottage on .86 ac is located 2.2 km from downtown Haliburton & combines the elegance of spacious living with the beauty of the Highlands. The engaging veranda gives a wonderful welcome to friends as it stretches across the entrance. Inside, the foyer opens to the lr and great rm with its galley window, 9' ceilings & 270 degree scenic viewing in the breakfast nook. Plus GST.

The Edisto Cottage on Lot 22 - $399,900

The Stothart Creek development of elegant custom homes is nestled within the natural landscape of the Haliburton Highlands, approx 2km from the village of Haliburton. The 'Edisto River Cottage' is a spacious 3 bdrm 2-storey, 2438 sf home, featuring a lge great room with 9 ft ceilings, main floor master br with ensuite, dining room, screened porch off breakfast area, main flr laundry, att dble gar. w/ unfinished apart. Plus GST

Fred Chapple
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 43

1957 Fleming Road - $249,000

Enjoy this Royal Home in a quiet neighbourhood near the edge of town, walking distance to school. 3 plus bedrooms, full - high basement. Insulated 2 car attached garage. On town water and sewer. Central vac, air exchanger, whirlpool tub and outside hot tub complete this package.

Little Boshkung Lake - $635,000

Very spacious custom built viceroy style back split home or cottage. Vaulted ceilings and open concept main rooms allow for great entertaining. Three bedrooms and three baths and a finished lower level with family room and wet bar. A modern large gazebo and a one bedroom with bath, kitchenette & living rm all in a one slip covered boathouse with sand beach & a glorious western sunset completes the picture.

Geoff Bunn
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 242

Fred Jones Road - $124,900

Complete privacy on this property, overlooking a small pond. This 3 bedroom, 1 bath with main floor laundry home is only minutes to the town of Haliburton, or just down the road to public access to Drag Lake.

Starter or Retirement - $129,900

Great starter or retirement home, centrally located in Wilberforce. Steps away from all amenities, and a short walk to access on Pusey (Dark) Lake. Level lot with large mature trees and a 16`x16` shed. The house has had many recent upgrades. Very neat and well laid out bungalow that shows pride of ownership. You don`t want to miss this one!

Jeff Wilson
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 233

Newly Constructed - $299,000

Residential - Newly constructed home close to town, very private setting. Modern 3+ bdrm home with ensuite off master. Open concept living room/ kitchen w/ pine floors throughout. In floor heating throughout w/ a wood burning FP on main floor. Finish the bsmt to your liking w/ 9` ceilings & 3rd bath roughed in. Circular driveway, drilled well & septic. Insulated Concrete Formed from the ground up.

Residential - $199,000

Be on the water for less than $200 Thousand. Enjoy this beautiful level lot, 3 bedroom home or cottage with access to Maple, Grass and Pine Lakes. A perfect first cottage. Also old original cottage exists on property.

Ken* Barry
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 228

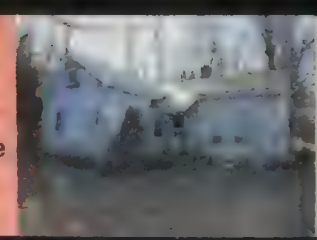
1017 Eagle Lake Road - $139,900

Very affordable three bedroom home in the Village of West Guilford close to shopping, skiing, golfing and public beach. Bright and clean with many recent upgrades including shingles, septic, hydro service, insulation and new high efficiency oil furnace all within the last 2-3 years. There is also a single detached garage and a two storey barn/storage building.

Barry Line Road - $159,900

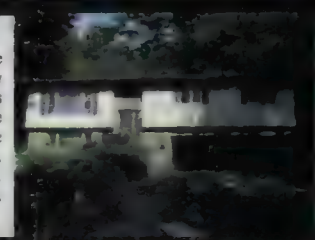
Tastefully decorated 2+ bedroom starter or retirement home. Features include master bedroom with 4 pce. ensuite and walkout to deck, central air & vac, pine accents, 3 pce. bath, full, partial basement, drilled well, storage building and carport. Level 1.49 acre private setting.

Linda* Baumgartner & Troy Austen
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 231



Haliburton Home - $139,900

This 2BR home is situated in a prime location for a home based business, close to the village of Haliburton. Very pretty property with 2.5 acres, nice view, mature maple trees & sunny lot. Loft area is open & would be ideal for 2 more bedrooms. Bright sunny livingroom with newer carpet, large master bedroom has been updated. Most windows new. Drilled well, septic and newer FA propane furnace. Oversized garage is great for the handyman, plus large shed. Some TLC needed but loads of potential



Wonderland Road - $269,000

Tastefully decorated 3 bedroom home situated 5 minutes from the town of Haliburton. Nice private lot, Lake Kashagawigamog 2 minutes away. 3 baths, quaint 'Florida Room'. Large deck, ideal for entertaining family and friends. Large family room on lower level, sewers, drilled well, central vac, maintenance free exterior, paved driveway. Currently operating as 'Wonderland Training Room'.

Lynda Litwin
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 35

Haliburton Village Home - $233,900

Free Internet. Rental income from internet tower. 3 bedroom home with walk out basement, screened in porch, studio over garage +++ so much more. Call Lynda Litwin to view this home

South Lake Home - $399,900

Custom kitchen, huge dining and entertainment area, sunken living room, walk out to lake, level lot, triple garage with workshop. Only 5 minutes to Minden. Call Lynda Litwin to view this home

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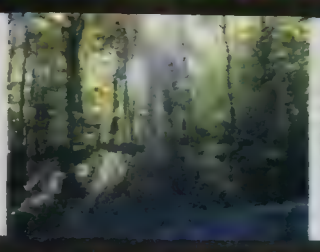
Madeline Doyle
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 250

Vacant Lot - Sandford Court - $59,900

Beautiful 2.69 acre parcel with 529' frontage on Sandford Court. This 2.69 acre parcel is relatively level with mature trees and forest feel. Private yet close to town. Seller is a registered Real Estate Sales Representative. Contact LB office for clauses.



Vacant Lot - Sandford Court - $99,900

Private estate lot (5.5 Acres) located in newer subdivision in village of Haliburton with spectacular view of both Grass & Head Lake. Conveniently located close to Sir Sandford Fleming Collage and shopping area. Cleared site, drilled well, driveway and septic approved.

Marilyn Hawley
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 237

Lipsy Lake - $1,125,000

This newly built 4 bedroom post and beam cottage exudes quality and whimsy. Nothing but the best materials were used including a CaesarStone Quartz kitchen countertop, slate and hardwood floors plus slate shower and tub surrounds. The soaring ceilings and expansive windows in the Great Room make it a place you'll never want to leave. The waterfront is that perfect mix of natural, deep, rock-shelf with a great sandy, gradual entry area for the kids and launching the kayak.

Redstone Lake - $2,800,000

Luxury retreat on spectacular Redstone Lk combines lake frtg on quiet bay w/absolutely private gorge & tranquil river view. Extensive & innovative docking systems & entertainment decks plus 360 degree deck on main cottage enhance outdoor enjoyment. Incredible log home with superior custom & artistic design features inside & out add to your relaxation. Incl separately deeded lot with charming 3BR luxuriously appointed guest cabin with covered post & beam porch, 2 fp's & screened room plus a 2000sf detached.

Marj & John Parish
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 226

Sir Sams Ski Resort At Your Back Door - $65,000

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Semi Private Lake - $495,000 + GST

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MINDEN HOMES

Melanie Vigrass
Minden Office
286-2911 ext. 40

New Price - $275,000

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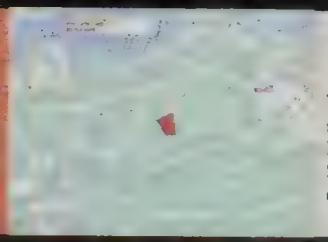
New Price - $221,500

Flooded with sunshine, this 3bdrm./2 bath home features a wraparound deck, main floor and lower level driveways and entrances, insulated detached garage, large rec room with a propane stove, large eat-in kitchen, central air, and a steel roof. This well maintained home is ready for you to view!

Peter* Brady
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 234



Private Chalet Lot-Sir Sam's - $45,000 Quiet Cul De Sac

Very private, lovely rolling site with secluded settings for your 4 season chalet home. Walk to ski hills, store, LCBO, spa & Rhubarb restaurant. Only $45,000 Call Peter now for plans and building costs. Ask Peter about the adjoining lot.

Only 3 Left! - $269,000

Last chance to own and build your dream 4 season castle on Eagle Lake! Almost 5 acres of great wilderness, wildlife and waterfront. Close to store, ski hills, spa & Rhubarb restaurant. What else could you ask for? Only $269,000. Call Peter now for building designs and estimates. Ask Peter about your private 8+ acre compound on 660+ feet of sand.

Ted Vasey
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 223

Kennisis Lake - $445,000

170 feet of sand shoreline in this quiet bay - 1494 sq. ft. cottage or home. Spacious country kitchen with w/o to porch - w/o living room to deck - fireplace - 3 bedrooms - guest cabin - garage - beautiful sunsets from here - private boat launch - twp road

Minden - 12229 Hwy #35 - $149,000

Well maintained home on the edge of Minden - 1600 sq. ft. of living space - 3 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms - walkout basement - attachrd garage - muncipal water - 147 frontage / .48 acres

Terry Carr
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 236

Harcourt - $164,900

In Harcourt Village and nestled amongst mature pines is a well built and modest executive home. The paved circular driveway leads to an attached 29' x 24' double garage. This beautifully landscaped yard has a stone step entrance and maintenance free exterior that will have you relaxing in no time. Enjoy the large private backyard for summer gatherings and display your talents in the wired/insulated Artist Studio. Inside this 2 + 1 bedroom home is a large...

Kushog Lake Area - $225,000

This 4 season home or cottage is perfectly located to give you a view of beautiful Kushog Lake! This bright 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers a large kitchen/dining area and great living room with oak cabinetry, pot lights, and a front porch for hours of relaxation. Located on 2.13 acres, partially wooded, with tonnes of privacy.

Tom & Gail Tempest**
Minden Office
286-2911 ext. 41

Sherwood Forest - Boshkung Lake - $1,175,000

Custom designed & built in 2006 with 200' of south facing golden sand beach on beautiful Echo Bay. Dead level 1 acre professionally landscaped lot with well treed buffer side areas for privacy. Irrigation system for carefree lawns & gardens. This property offers 3 BRs, lg. loft, utility room with main floor laundry; geothermal heating/cooling system; 'Generac' generator system for those inevitable power outages; hardwood floors with porcelain tiles in entranceway & kitchen. Plus more.

Moore Lake - $359,000

Cute and charming is the only way to describe this cottage/home located on Moore Lake. South facing frontage is sandy/rocky with deep water off the dock. 17' X 16' bunkie right at the shoreline. Large sunroom has hot-tub which can be used year round. Hear the water rush over Moore Falls and enjoy complete privacy. This property is very clean and well maintained. Don't miss this opportunity for a year round property which is positioned well for the GTA buyer.

Vince* Duchene**
Haliburton Office
457-1011 ext. 225

Haliburton Home - $187,900

This 3 bedroom home is located on Ridgeview Road in Haliburton. Situated on 3.77 acres this walkout design gives you a lot of house. The flooring throughout is all brand new, freshly painted, new pine trim and featured is the open concept LR/KT/DR with pine cathedral ceiling. Main floor laundry and large walk out to deck off the living room tops it off. Asking $187,900

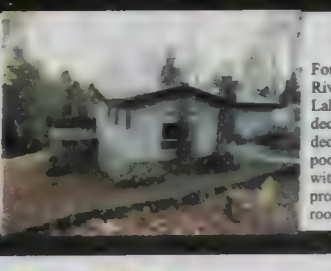
Living By The Lake - $379,900

A gem! Renovated throughout, lots of wood interior, open concept cottage AND a spectacular boathouse overhanging the lake WITH a finished guest cabin and screened in sunporch to capture a sense of "living by the lake"! This property has a spectacular view over South Bay of Haliburton Lake and offers great swimming, boating and fishing opportunities. Asking $379,900

Rick* Forget, Iona Fevreau & Mary Hamden
Wilberforce Office
448-2222

East Lake - $217,500

3 bedroom home/cottage on lovely scenic quiet lake. This beautiful setting has been owned by one family only, who actually lived there for 20 years. Year round easy access, winter water, gentle slope to water. Open concept living area, large mudroom, half log cedar and pine siding. Great for swimming, fishing and canoeing and a plus to be able to enjoy the sunrise exposure.



Grace River - $269,900

Four Season Home/Cottage with 195' sandy shoreline on Grace River with access to 2 lakes, being extremely close to Grace Lake. Not only do you have a great view of Grace Lake from your deck, but you can also watch the spectacular sunsets from the deck as well. This home also features a 16'x32' heated swimming pool for when the water levels start to drop. Great private setting with small boathouse at waters edge and a small Bunkie at back of property. Year round access, close to all amenities. Large bright rooms. A must to see!

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McKecks: New Look - New Menu

By Zoe Cittern

The 'restoration' is over and owner of McKecks Maarten Steinkampf can finally breathe a sigh of relief. "Work that would normally take a couple of months or more we did in five weeks which is completely nuts" laughs Steinkampf. The restoration is something you truly have to see to witness the amazing change that the restaurant has under gone. It's sleek but not pretentious and it's cozy without being restrictive. The benches in the dining area are still the same albeit being painted and distressed and a large fireplace now takes central stage next to the bar which is ideal for wintry nights. The "washrooms are now infamous for a good reason" says Steinkampf. Low level lighting turns on when you enter and slate coloured tiles adorn the entire walls; a complete revamp from the tired and cramped washrooms before. The new McKecks is designed around old Haliburton, photographs hang on the wall depicting the old days and they even took the time to reference photographs and paint colours that were used on distinctive landmarks from the Haliburton Museum.

Sean Carthew, creative director at McKecks says that the restoration celebrates old Haliburton. Although the main dining area is mostly devoid of hockey memorabilia a special room aptly named the 'The Dressing Room' has been turned into a room dedicated to the sport and the 'original six.' Hockey paraphernalia hangs on the four walls so the old McKecks is still very much there. It will be used as a private room for parties or as an overflow room. Carthew says that "it's still McKecks here, we're still based upon honest food, honest prices, honest service."

Though these changes don't necessarily mean an increase in prices for food, "you will never find anything over $20 it just will never happen. It's important to keep prices low" says Steinkampf. More items have been added to the menu such as a curry and certified angus steaks though they have kept old favourites such as sandwiches and salads.

McKecks used 90 per cent local trades people including Terry Bassette who lives on Sir Sams Hill who was the general contractor along with Laura Bartlett from West Shore Design on Kenissis Lake who was the interior designer for the project.

Steinkampf believes that "we captured what we wanted it to be, I think we have a nice atmosphere here." The Blue Line, the organization drafted up by McKecks committed 1,000 hours of community work to individuals and organizations over the time period they were closed. On December 30th the restaurant will auction off old furniture, items and signs that were part of the old McKecks. The proceeds raised will go straight back into the Blue Line. Furthermore their new menu boasts 'The Blue Line Burger' where 10 per cent of the price will go towards the Blue Line.

The restoration is definitely something to be seen so after reading this grab some good old fashioned food and revel in the new setting of McKecks.■

Helping Hands at Archie Stouffer

By Zoe Cittern

Ten girls who make up Helping Hands, a group at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, organized a school dance last Friday night, December 4th to raise funds to donate to World Vision. The price of admission was four dollars per student or pupils could leave a food donation which was given to the local food bank. Helping Hands is supervised by teacher Laurie Marks O'Sullivan in which every year Grade Seven and Eight students can become involved and help raise funds for livestock to be given to families in third world countries. They meet every Tuesday at school and they all pitch in with ideas on how to help. Grade Seven student Autumn Jordan who is part of Helping Hands says that "it's important to help other people and also the food people donated today helps the kids in our community too." Another Grade Seven girl, Tamara Berry said that "it makes you feel good to help other people."

Fifty four kids showed up to the school dance and they expected that more children would show as the evening went on. Helping Hands raised approximately an impressive $300 which will go towards livestock in a third world country. ■

From left to right: Kyla Sisson, Autumn Jordan, Tamara Berry, Shae MacNaull, Kelsie Turner, Katie Hayes six of the girls who are in helping hands. Not pictured are group members: Erin Little, Erica Carmount and Callie Dick.

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The County Voice

As a manager, you always have a gun to your head. It's a question of whether there is a bullet in the barrel. ~Kevin Keegan, 1995

Highland Storm Atom AE Silver Stick Champions

Front - goalie Anthony Bertucca Middle row from left - Jack Dobie,Owen Patterson-Smith, Ryan Prentice, Devyn Prentice, Carter O'Neill Back row - from left, Alex Wilbee, Jacob Haedicke, Trevor Turner, Greg Crofts and Jake Russell-Bull. The magnificent eleven!

What an exciting weekend of hockey at the annual Silver Stick Tournament in Haliburton! Good hockey was played by all teams involved. The Highland Storm Atom AEs played like a well oiled machine, moving fast, fore and back checking and passing the puck to create plays. In their three Round Robin games on Saturday the Storm obtained the most number of points possible per game for a unmatched total of 15. With three games Saturday and two Sunday it is too difficult to mention all the points obtained by every player, but I would like to mention that our goalie, Anthony Bertucca had three shutouts and only allowed three goals against in the five games. Our last game Sunday for the championship was against Acton, and the Storm came through, winning 4-2 to become champions. The Storm will move on to play in Niagara, in early January in the continuation of the International Silver Stick competition.

We would like to thank and mention the other teams that were involved in making this tournament a success – Lincoln, Dundas, Oro, Thorold, Prince Edward County and Norwood. We would like to thank Merril Barry for his donation to our team, our sponsors The PepperMill Restaurant, Cherylann and Rachel for their daylong assistance at the raffle table, Tony, Cole, Mack, Tom and Melanie Prentice for insuring the change rooms were clean, and Brian MacMillan for attending our tournament. A special thanks to Wade MacInnes for his organization of the tournament and answering my endless questions. And to all the other people who offered their help, but mostly to our bench staff for getting our team to play to their potential. We are thrilled and proud of our boys!!

Bench Staff: Jim O'Neill (coach), Peter Dobie (asst coach), Kev Crofts Jr. (trainer) and Greg Turner (asst trainer). And of course our team:

Anthony Bertucca, Jake Bull, Greg Crofts, Jack Dobie,Jacob Haedicke, Carter O'Neill, Devyn Prentice, Ryan Prentice, Owen Smith, Trevor Turner and Alex Wilbee.

Congratulations boys! ■

Submitted by Karena Crofts, Team Manager

Matt Duchene Tearing up the Score Sheet

Named Third Star of the Week for Entire NHL

By Matthew Flowers

With his skill, blazing speed, high octane style of play, along with his humble personality, it didn't take long for Matt Duchene to become a fan favourite in Colorado. Fans from every blog or forum on-line quickly proclaimed Duchene as the second coming of legendary Avalanche Joe Sakic, fully capable of performing as well as the future first-ballot hall-of-famer ever could; lofty expectations are a vast understatement in this situation, especially for an 18 year old rookie.

Fast forward 20 games into the season, and suddenly we heard voices of many of those same uninformed fans, some calling Duchene a draft bust after he tallied only seven points in is his first 21 games. While the score sheet didn't favour Duchene early, any hockey fan could see the quality of play he showed each and every night. Finally, in the last 11 games, Duchene has found the back of the net more frequently and lo and behold, is ranked second in rookie scoring as of December 8th after scoring a remarkable 12 points. The surge has seemed to bring back the bandwagon fans, and for all his fans back home here in Haliburton, relief that Duchene is finally getting rewarded for his hard work.

Prior to Wednesday night's game, Duchene scored six times in six games, including two multi-goal games. His offensive explosion caught the attention of the NHL, honouring Duchene by naming him the Third Star of the Week, after he tallied four goals and two assists in four games between November 30th and December 6th.

Haliburton High School Principal Gary Brohman can see the improvements Duchene is making as the season goes on.

"His play has been steady," said Brohman. "He's becoming more consistent with every game."

Brohman coached Duchene when he played for the Red Hawks as a Grade Nine and 10 high school student.

"In his Grade 10 year, Matt was by far the best player in the league," recalled Brohman about his former player. "His speed, skill, and dedication made him such a special hockey player."

Duchene helped his Red Hawks team win the COSSA championship in 2007. For the next two years, he played for the Brampton Battalion, impressing the hockey world so much he ultimately was selected third overall in the NHL Draft. None of this came as a big surprise to Brohman, given the love of hockey Duchene has.

"Every practice and every game he showed his passion and love for the game," said Brohman. ■

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Senior Basketball Team Can't Keep Pace with Falcons in Second Half

Matthew Flowers
Staff Reporter

It was a game somewhat similar to their matchup at an exhibition tournament earlier in the season. In the first contest, the Haliburton Red Hawks and the Fenelon Falls Falcons were tied after one half, before the Falcons ultimately took control at the end of the game and came away with a 10-point win. In the second meeting, the Falcons had a little better cushion in the first half with a six-point lead, but again took the game over in the second half to win 43-24.

The Hawks looked a little slower on the ball than their counterparts, possibly feeling the effects of a close game the day before. In that game, the Hawks lost by just one point to St. Thomas. The Falcons took advantage, out-rebounding the Hawks more and more as the game went along.

The game was evenly-matched early, and the Hawks had some mojo going. Caleb Zilla made a sweet pump fake move around a defender to set himself up with an open shot, draining the first bucket for the Hawks and exciting the crowd on hand. The Falcons slowly started to creep ahead on the scoreboard, and went on an 11-3 run to go up 19-9 towards the end of the second half. The Falcons appeared to be running away with the game, but the Hawks took back the momentum by scoring the final four points of the half, making it a 6-point game seemingly within grasp.

The Falcons, however, came out pounding in the second half, taking away any hopes for the Hawks to get back into it. The third quarter proved to be the turning point as the Falcons limited the Hawks to just four points in the quarter.

Junior Squad Show Great Energy, but Out Matched by Strong Falcons Team

The junior Red Hawks basketball squad showed great energy in short bursts, but the Falcons steady court presence enabled Fenelon Falls to win 55-27.

Though the Hawks got down early in this one, 26-9 at one point, the Hawks came to life with some great play-calling by Head Coach Paul Longo. After scoring a bucket, the Hawks began to walk back to the defensive court to set up, as is the normal thing to do for any basketball team. However, before the Hawks even crossed half, and before the Falcons in bounded the ball, Longo yelled from the sidelines, "Now! Now! Now!," signalling intense pressure on the ball that completely caught the Falcons off guard. The pressure enabled the Hawks to steal the ball back and score, and on the ensuing Falcons possession, the Hawks did the same play again. There was a second basket by Damon Flatman, but it was called back due to a travelling violation. The clock ran out in the half, but it was enough to pump up the crowd and the Hawks bench.

The Hawks used the same strategy to begin the second half. With coach Longo yelling from the sidelines, the Hawks continued to fake playing defensively before applying the pressure. Andrew Murray and Damon Flatman were the prime Hawks players attacking the ball, and both got their fair share of steals. The Hawks made it a 20-28 game before the Falcons finally made a successful outlet pass. The Hawks couldn't get any closer as the Falcons went on a 10-0 run and controlled the play from there. Despite the final, the level of energy showed by the junior team had the crowd buzzing. ■

Red Hawks Hockey Team Now 5-0 on the Season

Defeat Kenner 7-1

Matthew Flowers
Staff Reporter

The Red Hawks hockey team continued to dominate in this young season by defeating Kenner Collegiate 7-1 on December 1st. The Hawks did most of their damage in the second period, scoring four goals in a seven-minute stretch that sealed the deal.

Keaton Gadway scored twice and added an assist, while Brandon Yake, Brett Yake, Greg Clements, Kevin Nelson, and Ian Bottum each had one apiece. Brandon Yake also had two assists, while Scott Griffith had three assists of his own.

Alex Monk Cray played well in goal, making key saves during the second period when it was still close. Coach Ron Yake said Monk Cray kept his team in the game, especially when Kenner had a 5-on-3 advantage when the score was just 2-1.

Special teams played a significant factor in the game, as it does for many high school games.

"Great job on the penalty kill," said Yake about his team, "powerplay needs some refinement."

The Hawks take part in a large tournament in Whitby today. As many as 40 teams will be playing in the tournament, featuring teams from all across southern and central Ontario. The tournament will be a great indicator of who the powerhouses are in Ontario this season, and should provide the Red Hawks with far more challenging games than the ones they've been accustomed to so far. Their next home game is on Monday, December 14th when they host the Clarke Raiders. ■

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Red Hawks Rack up some Wrestling Medals in Tournament Action

Matthew Flowers
Staff Reporter

Junior Wrestlers Showing Promise in Young Season

The Red Hawks wrestling team took part in two wrestling tournaments last week and came out with some great results. Coach Paul Klose is especially pleased with the effort and promise his younger wrestlers are showing.

"The junior wrestling team is showing great potential," said Klose. The future looks good for Red Hawk wrestling."

The team first travelled to Kenner Collegiate on December 2nd in a tournament featuring several other schools from the Kawartha region. Tournament gold medalists Tara O'Sullivan and Bailey Walker shone the brightest for Haliburton, remaining undefeated throughout the day.

The Red Hawks had a tournament the very next day in Ajax, featuring several schools mostly from the Durham region. Impressively, 11 Haliburton students finished in the top four of their respective weight classes.

Below are the Red Hawk medal winners for both tournaments.

Kenner Collegiate Tournament (December 2nd)

Gold Medallists – Tara O'Sullivan, Bailey Walker
Silver Medallists – Jacob Outram, Kayla Gardiner, Caitlyn Griffin, Quinn Schell
Bronze Medallists – Liz Toth, Sasha White

Ajax Tournament (December 3rd)

Gold Medallists – Kaily Schell, Christianna Walker, Mike Mazara, Cole Stamp
Silver Medallists – Lily Coneybeare, Greg Baumgartner
Bronze Medallists – Tanner Hamilton, Cody Withey. ■

Maia O'Sullivan takes down her opponent to score a point.

Jacob Outram attempts to turn his opponent in his semifinal match.

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Junior Red Hawks in Control Against Brock

By Matthew Flowers

The junior basketball team transformed a 2nd quarter lapse into a smooth victory against the Brock Bulldogs on Tuesday, December 8th, winning 41-29. Damon Flatman led all scorers with 19 points, displaying his trademark ability to breakdown any defence to find a laneway to the hoop. Zach Cox was a beast on the glass, rebounding the ball and putting away second chance opportunities. He ended up with 10 well deserved points.

The Hawks got off to a good start, scoring six before Brock could answer, and took the first quarter 17-6. Brock could get nothing going offensively as Haliburton displayed strong defence to keep the Bulldogs from scoring any easy buckets. Andrew Murray, who had six points in the game, generated many steals with his quick hand work on defence. His aggressive style forced opposing players to rush plays around him to try and avoid turnovers. The Hawks were better than the Bulldogs in just about every department in the opening frame.

The second quarter proved to be a different story. Brock took advantage of the one area of the game they were better at as a team than Haliburton –rebounding. In the first quarter, Brock's approach to getting the ball close to the hoop was through passing plays. In the second, they took more shots from the outside in hopes their taller players could get the rebounds. The strategy worked, and Brock stormed all the way to lead after the half by a score of 20-19. While Brock's offense sparked, Haliburton's fizzled, as the Hawks were unable to get any kind of rhythm in the quarter.

The halftime break served Haliburton the most as the momentum Brock generated in the second quarter all but vanished completely. Haliburton began to take full control of the game, starting with better defensive positioning under their own basket. They also made the adjustments on offense, taking a slower approach by consistently setting up the court, which ultimately led to fewer turnovers and more scoring opportunities. The Hawks cruised throughout the second half, playing all-around solid basketball.

Head Coach Paul Longo was pleased with how his team played in almost all aspects of the game.

"We just need to work on our rebounding a little bit," said Longo, "but other than that, we played very well. We actually rebounded much better in the second half."

The Red Hawks play one more game on December 15th before Christmas Break, a home game against Lindsay Collegiate. ■

Pictured at right: From Left, Junior Co-Captains Karlis Suchovs and Damon Flatman

Volleyball Season Now in Session at Hal High

By Matthew Flowers

In the first tournament of the season, head coach Brett Caputo was more concerned about teaching the game to his team rather than worrying over the scores. Understandable, seeing as how of the 18 total students on the team – 14 regulars, another four as part of a development squad – 14 are Grade Nine students and only four are Grade 10's. However, though the level of competition is far higher in high school than elementary school volleyball, the young squad showed a lot of promise, getting better as the tournament went on. Caputo is impressed with what he has seen so far.

"My overall impression of the team," said Caputo, "is that we possess a high level of potential and overall athletic ability. This tournament was a good indicator of how far we have come as a team."

Caputo gave all 18 girls some playing time, reinforcing the plan to develop the squad by giving everyone some quick experience, but he also tested out his first and second lines to see how they matched up. Facing fellow Double-A school Brock, Haliburton took both sets they played, winning 25-12 and 25-17 in a game Haliburton controlled from beginning to end.

Standing out for the Hawks were Grade Nine's Shay-Lynn Hutchings and Sarah Comer, and Grade 10 captain Grace Diezel.

The senior girls' volleyball team are also off to a good start as they placed third overall in their first tournament of the season. The team posted some impressive wins over St. Thomas and Port Hope, and also took one of two sets against Cobourg West. ■

Skating Rink in Stanhope Lights up

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

The township of Algonquin Highlands were awarded a cheque of $10,000 on Thursday, December 3rd from Hydro One. Boyd Knox presented the cheque to Reeve Eleanor Harrison along with other council members and deputy Reeve Tom Gardner. The money will be used for the outdoor skating rink in Stanhope. Tom Gardner said that the rink was "a really big hit with everyone last year."

Hydro One has donated money before for lighting at the skating rink in Wilberforce and with a floating dock at Kinark campground. They donated the money through their 'Powerplay' initiative which was launched to support and enhance children's sports and recreation facilities in Ontario communities served by Hydro One. Knox who is based in Minden said that "it is way for them to give back to communities." ■

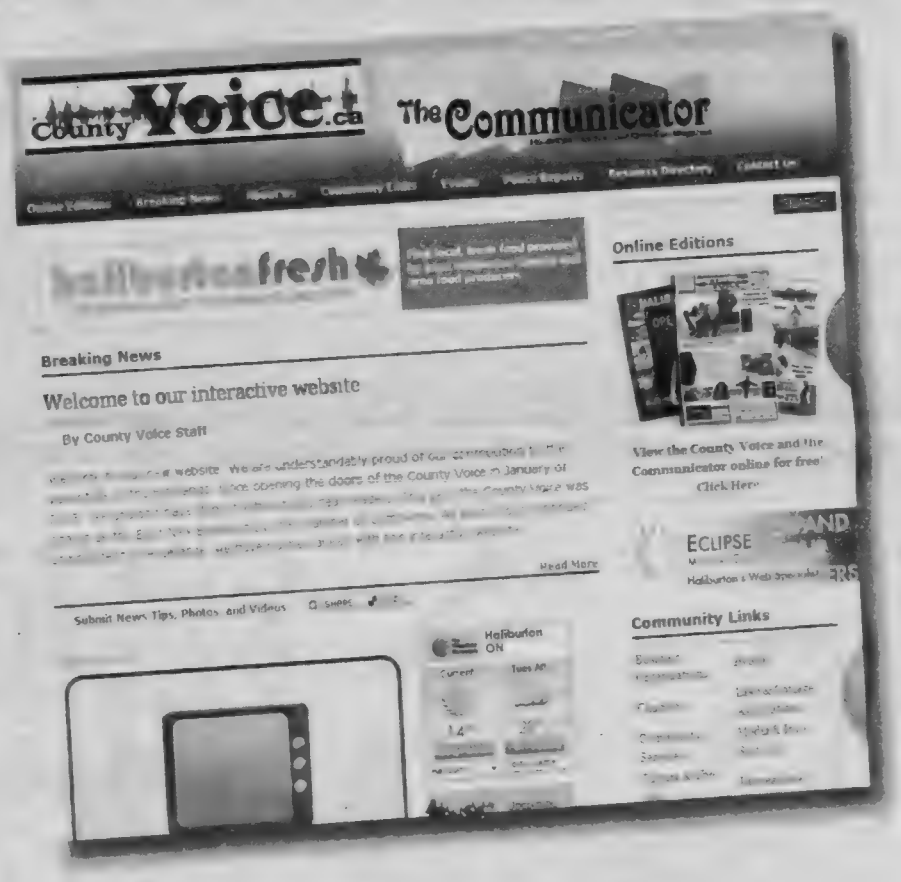
From left to right: Deputy Reeve Tom Gardner, Reeve Eleanor Harrison, hydro one manager in Minden Boyd Knox, councillor Diane Griffin and councillor Don Shortreed.

Storm Tykes won their Port Carling Tournament going undefeated: this was their first ever Tyke Tournament.

Back Row from Left: Cole Prentice, Alex Little, Ass't Coach Clay Glecoff, Aaron Bellefleur, Paul Turner, Joe Boice, Trainer Greg Turner, James Alexander, Coach Jason Morissette, Ethan Glecoff. Front Row: Tyson Clemments, Zach Morissette, Nigel Smith, Tim Turner.

Festival of Banners Concludes

Minden's Festival of Banners concluded a week ago Sunday with all 34 of the adult created banners being sold by silent auction. The final two hours of the event took place at the Minden Legion, and as the clock ticked closer to 3 PM, nervous bidders began guarding their banner of choice, some good naturedly turning back the bid form or covering it with their hand. In the end, it certainly appeared that the banners that had graced the downtown throughout the summer months had acquired permanent homes with admiring new owners. ■



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YWCA Hosts 1st Annual Guardian Angel Awards

Stephen Patrick
Editor

Pictured are four of the award winners - From Left: Linda Mintz with the YWCA's Laura Redman; Rosie Kadwell; Pauline Knott; Stephanie Foster. *Photos by Peter Redman*

"We want to honour the women who are dedicated to improving the lives of women in Haliburton County"

Last Sunday night, as part of the ceremonies in honour of the 20th anniversary of the December massacre of the 14 young women at Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique, the Haliburton County branch of the YWCA hosted an evening of remembrance, mourning, and celebration at the Beaver Theatre in Minden.

Special Events Developer Laura Redman, Case Worker Paula Pepping, and YWCA Admin Assistant and Office Manager Daisy Downs welcomed almost 100 people, including the OutLoud Womyn's Voices. Also included was an all-male panel discussion on the topic of violence against women (see editorial on page four of this issue.)

Ms. Pepping said that the YWCA staff had decided that on this December 6th day, which is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, it was important to honour Haliburton County women who have made a daily difference in women's lives. "Yes, we mourn the Montreal women who lost their lives 20 years ago, and the 14 women who have died already this year in Ontario at the hands of their partners, but we take very seriously the National Day's slogan: 'First We Mourn: Then we Work for Change.' So we decided to honour these five women who work for that change everyday of their lives."

The five Guardian Angel Award winners were Rosie Kadwell, Heather Ross, Linda Mintz, Pauline Knott, and Stephanie Foster.

Rosie Kadwell, a dietician and public health worker with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit for over 20 years, has worked tirelessly with Haliburton women, children and their families to improve their health through proper diets and nutrition. Ms. Kadwell has also worked a vast array of community groups initiating dozens of innovative and imaginative programs to focus public and institutional attention on healthy and affordable eating habits. "Rosie loves food," said Ms. Pepping, "healthy food, that is, and she wants all of Haliburton County to eat better."

Heather Ross has devoted her life to what she describes as "The Three E's: economic justice; environmental justice; and equity, or social justice." Ms. Ross works with U-Links in Minden, is a lead volunteer with Places 4 People, and works regularly with Canada's First Nations communities as a consultant and social activist. She was part of the group that founded the Haliburton Emergency Rural Shelter initiative in the early 1990s, which lead directly to the Minden YWCA's Emergency House.

Linda Mintz has worked with what Ms. Pepping described as "passion and compassion' as a family support worker for SIRCH for the past 20 years. She believes that "everyone I work with has something to offer, and these women all have great skills and abilities." She works regularly with at risk women and their families, and is known throughout the county as a consummate team player. She also has worked with pre-school entry programs, and is a volunteer with the Child Find program.

Pauline Knott is Student Services Worker with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, and a Haliburton County resident for the past two and a half years. "She is a courageous advocate for her women students, is a leader in crisis response, and has a great rapport with all the students, male and female. She is devoted to her students, their families, her schools and her community."

Stephanie Foster is an undergraduate at Laurentian University studying for her BA in Law and Justice, and is set on a career in Law Enforcement. Stephanie was on the Student Council at Haliburton High, has worked as a volunteer with the OPP Auxiliary, Early Years programs, has tutored at Georgian College, and worked as a security guard at Georgian College. "She's an outstanding example of what our youth can do in their communities," said Ms. Pepping in her introduction.

The evening concluded with a Remembrance and Laying of Roses in memory not only of the Montreal women who died 20 years ago, but also the 14 women who have been slain thus far this year. ■

Victims of Violence Remembered in Carnarvon

Story on page 1

Below: Bob McKay of Neighbours, Friends, and Families.
Right: SIRCH's Nancy Brownsberger lights a candle of Remembrance with her son Alexander
Bottom: The OutLoud Womyn performed at both Memorial Events.

Photos By:
Lyn Winans

except photo below by Peter Redman

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: LITERARY CHARACTERS

Identify the character, then name the book. (e.g., He says, "God bless us, every one!" Answer: Tiny Tim: "A Christmas Carol.")

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. He leads a gang of pickpockets and receives stolen goods.
Answer_____
2. This hotheaded youth tries to engage Athos, Porthos and Aramis in a duel.
Answer_____
3. The person at the tea party who is half asleep.
Answer_____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. He carries a dead mouse with him and relies on George for protection.
Answer_____
5. This rich amphibian is good-natured but conceited and is the owner of a hall.
Answer_____
6. This dog of the Darling family acts as nurse to the children.
Answer_____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. This young solicitor goes to a Transylvania castle to complete a transaction.
Answer_____
8. He strikes the first blow in the assassination of a Roman leader.
Answer_____
9. This faithful sidekick peasant squire rides a mule.
Answer_____

ANSWERS: 1. Fagin: "Oliver Twist." 2. D'Artagnan: "The Three Musketeers." 3. The Dormouse: "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." 4. Lennie (Small): "Of Mice and Men." 5. Mr. Toad: "The Wind in the Willows." 6. Nana: "Peter Pan." 7. Jonathan Harker: "Dracula." 8. Casca: "Julius Caesar." 9. Sancho Panza: "Don Quixote."

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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Sissy Love Connection

By Zoe Cittern

Janice Crawford a resident of Haliburton County and a volunteer for many projects including becoming a 'big sister' for a young woman and helping people emotionally after traumatic accidents left something rather special for everyone. Just before Janice lost her battle with cancer in October 2008 her sister, Lynne Brady set up Sissy's Love Connection in recognition of all the contributions Janice had given to the county. The fund generously donates financial support to children of Haliburton County for cultural activities. They can help give your child a Christmas gift of lessons in music, dance, art, drama or any other arts based activity. In order to apply for the support your annual family income must be less than $45,000 and Sissy's Love Connection will pay up to $100 for arts activities, equipment or supplies. The program is for children up to the age of 16, applicants can only apply once a year.

Janice was a fan of the arts: "She made stained glass and did folk art painting up until she died. I think she would have been very pleased that kids are helped by this" says Sharon Harrison, one of the coordinators for the organization and a close friend of Janice. Just before Janice passed they were able to raise $5,000 at a silent auction at Fleming College where the funds raised went towards the organization. Sharon says that "Janice was able to be there to see it happen. It was lovely for her to see it and she was very involved." Last year the organization was able, amongst other things, to buy two guitars for young boys after their uncle committed to giving them guitar lessons.

The deadline for applications is December 15th. For more information regarding the application process call Sharon at 286-1940 or email dancingwildflower@sympatico.ca ■

Dear Abby
by Abigail Van Buren

GIRL IS ENCOURAGED TO BE SMART WITHOUT BECOMING A SHOW-OFF

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Smart Seventh-Grader" (Sept. 26) was supportive, but did not address the heart of her problem. Many years ago I was that little girl. No one had explained to me there is a difference between knowing the answer to the teacher's questions and knowing how to THINK. Her teachers and friends already know she knows all the answers. She has nothing to prove, so you should have told her to set herself an intellectual goal of asking questions in class that will spark the imaginations of other students and deepen the discussion. When she can't do that, she can sit quietly and let the teacher interact with others who don't already know all the material. If she does, her teachers will bless her today, and she will bless you for the rest of her life. No one likes to be around a know-it-all, and the sooner she learns that lesson the happier she'll be. -- BARBARA, A LIBRARIAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR BARBARA: While I hate to see any child hide his or her light under a barrel, you are right about the importance of children developing social and coping skills. I received a blitz of e-mail from teachers and parents who echoed your sentiments. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As a teacher of 30 years, allow me to provide another response to "Smart Seventh-Grader." It's entirely possible that the student who accused her of being a "know-it-all" is one who would like to answer. Does she raise her hand to answer every question the teacher asks? Some kids are intimidated by it, so she should limit herself so others also have a chance to answer. They need a chance to shine, too. When kids stop raising their hands because one person always does, it's hard for the teacher to ignore the one kid. But teachers want others to learn, too. The ability to listen to others and share opportunities for learning will make her a better person. -- SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER

DEAR ABBY: I am an adult now, but I was once that child. Grades came easily to me, and sometimes other kids made fun of me for being so smart. I purposely missed answers on tests at times to avoid getting a perfect score and being teased. I wanted to fit in. I learned early that intelligence was not something to be prized. When I was older and began dating, I remember my mom telling me boys didn't like girls who were smarter or who beat them at sports or games. So I began hiding the gifts and talents God had blessed me with. I married young to a man who was intimidated by my intelligence, so I hid it away piece by piece until even I began to doubt my capabilities. Then one day something happened that changed everything. I was granted another gift -- a daughter who was blessed with a beautifully intelligent mind and reminded me of myself as a child. I saw her watch my every step and try to be like me. It was then that I realized I had to own and embrace my intelligence or she would hide hers and allow others to steal it away piece by piece. Abby, it was life-changing. It has caused difficulties in my marriage because I suddenly changed the rules of the game, and I no longer allow myself to be less so that someone else can be more -- but that change needed to happen. May I share with "Smart Seventh-Grader" some of what I have shared with my daughter? NEVER hide your God-given talents to make someone else feel better. When people tease you about being smart, they're showing their own insecurity. Don't be afraid to answer questions, but don't "show off." Life is a balance. Embrace your intelligence and view it as the gift it is. If you let it shine, it will take you far. -- OLDER AND WISER IN INDIANA

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For week of: Dec 14h

Horoscopes
It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

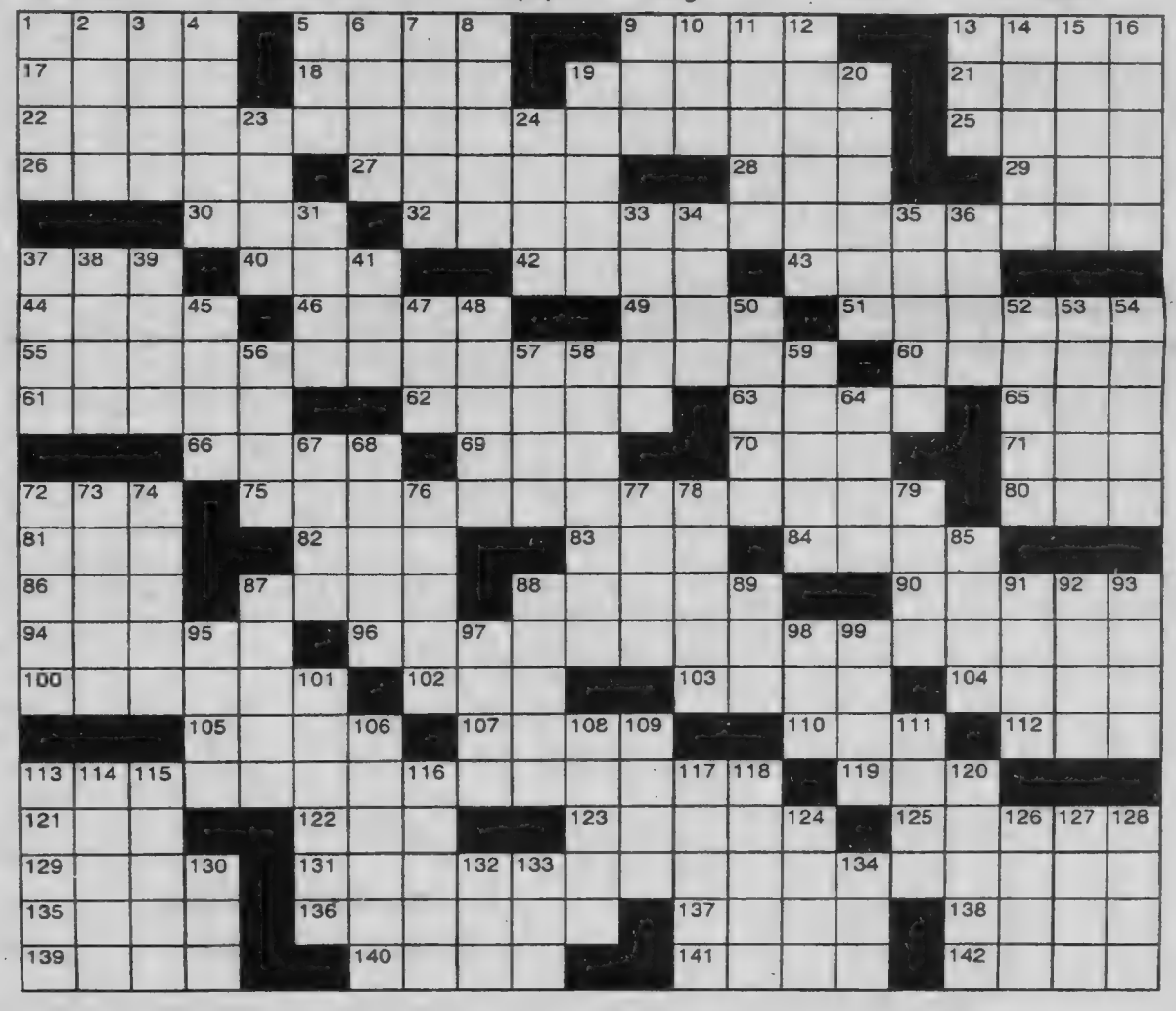
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

Super Crossword
BIG CHEESES

ACROSS
1 Scrabble piece
5 Colt color
9 Chore
13 Marine leader?
17 "Tosca" tune
18 Woody's boy
19 Synagogue singer
21 Columbo or Tamblyn
22 Cheesy football player?
25 Decree
26 Incorporate, as territory
27 Madame Tussaud
28 English trio?
29 Self-esteem
30 Scientific site
32 Cheesy TV character?
37 — -de-sac
40 Throng
42 Robotic rock group
43 Bit of hardware
44 Perched on
46 Beppu brew
49 Miscalculate
51 Award
55 Cheesy late-night host?
60 Binge
61 Gossamer
62 They just want to have fun
63 Close as can be
65 "— Believer" ('66 hit)
66 TV's "My Two —"
69 Toyshop initials
70 Stocking stuffer?
71 Deface
72 Old Testament book
75 Cheesy clarinetist?
80 Sheridan or Sothern
81 Copy
82 Singer Tex
83 Tallahassee sch.
84 Baal or Elvis
86 Actress Tilly
87 Find fault
88 George Hamilton's ex
90 Chula —, CA
94 A Muse
96 Cheesy televangelist?
100 Swift stuff
102 Where flocks frolic
103 Go it alone
104 Green land
105 Mississippi senator
107 Hellenic letters
110 Red cap
112 Actress Zadora
113 Cheesy basketball player?
119 Massage
121 Tempest — teapot
122 Mineral suffix
123 Throws down the gauntlet
125 Soprano Tetrazzini
129 Brink
131 Cheesy aviator?
135 Is inexact
136 Sporting dog
137 Toast topper
138 "— Came Running" ('58 film)
139 Pub missile
140 Director Nicolas
141 Request
142 Baseball's Speaker

DOWN
1 Reid of "Just Visiting"
2 Nutritional need
3 Pride papa
4 Blackboard support
5 —4 (Toyota model)
6 38 Down city
7 Islamic deity
8 — Dame
9 Kind of cross
10 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
11 Word with bath or shovel
12 Agile Olga
13 Pound sound
14 Peace's partner
15 Custom
16 Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"
19 — de menthe
20 Just out
23 Final
24 Encircle
31 Comice kin
33 Maintains
34 Comic Crosby
35 — shark
36 Defeat by a knockout
37 No gentlemen
38 A Four Corners state
39 A many-splendored thing
41 "Pshaw!"
45 The — Piper
47 Beer barrel
48 Uplift
50 Jamaican cultist
52 — ballerina
53 Macho type
54 Long for
56 Olive —
57 Lug
58 With detachment
59 Campbell or Judd
64 Knight's quaff
67 — vu
68 Stallion sound
72 Maestro Levine
73 Wagner work
74 Biblical repetition
76 Katmandu's country
77 Lofty initials?
78 Sahara sights
79 — Scotia
85 Relish
87 French painter
88 Cremona craftsman
89 From — Z
91 Omit
92 Hatcher of "Lois & Clark"
93 Geometry calculation
95 Joust
97 Encounter
98 Landon or Kjellin
99 Johannesburg resident
101 Standards
106 Restrict Rover
108 Furniture wood
109 Railroad deps.
111 '64 Michael Caine film
113 Brandish
114 Where to eat biryani
115 Light beer
116 Cold-war assn.
117 Certain deck
118 Sam of "Jurassic Park"
120 Pop
124 Hook's right hand?
126 Oistrakh or Stravinsky
127 Word form for "somewhat"
128 Pugnacious Olympian
130 Cornerstone abbr.
132 AAA offering
133 Poultry serving
134 Stole



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Health for Life Thanks its Partners and Volunteers

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

Members of the Minden Sneaker Day Committee - Hazel Maxwell, Gwen Cox, Marg McIntyre, Frank Birchall, Anne Lewis, Helen Birchall. Not all members were present for the photograph.

Outgoing Health for Life Chair, Wendy Bateman (right) addresses the group. Pictured in the background is HKPR's Sue Shikaze

Health For Life (HFL) held a recognition and appreciation lunch recently to thank its volunteers for all the hard work and dedication they have lent the organisation over the past year.

Wendy Bateman, the chair for Health For Life will be leaving at the end of this year. She started 16 years ago, and told the crowd that it had been "a wonderful experience." She continued by retelling the story of why she decided to start a health organisation. "19 years ago my husband and I were hiking in Tennessee when he had a massive heart attack: he recovered but I understood quickly about keeping a healthy heart. Every year we take part in the heart and stroke walk in October."

Rosie Kadwell, public health dietician at the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit (HKPR), spoke of how "the organisation has grown tremendously, we have benefitted from the experience of all the volunteers and we are very grateful for all the help."

The team spoke of the successful initiatives they had instilled in the community so far and that they will be expanding soon to include areas such as injuries and misuse of substances. HFL is involved with many healthy eating projects, and Kadwell states that their aim "is for everyone in Haliburton to have access to safe and healthy food." They are also working on a program to help residents of Haliburton County with a low cost dental plan for children. They have promoted healthy eating for students at Haliburton High; they introduced a salad bar to the canteen once a month which was so successful they hope to see it as a permanent feature. Along with healthy eating programs they also are involved with fitness and physical activity programs.

Sue Shikaze, HKPR health promoter, explained to the audience that "residents need somewhere that is safe to walk so they can concentrate on getting healthy." She spoke of the sneaker walk which is held annually on every second Friday in May, which she believes is "a great example of how volunteers can help promote healthy living by walking, which is an easy and great activity."

Eleven volunteers make up the Minden sneaker day committee; Volunteer Gwen Cox explained that "the Minden Legion many years ago gave us $2,000 to help create a trail; we bought chips with the money to make the trail which has been known as the swamp trail for a number of years, although it doesn't have an official name. It's a beautiful trail; you see so much wildlife out there." The trail is now used by ATV's and snowmobilers though the team hope to bring it back next year for only non-motorised users. Volunteer Anne Lewis said that the walk is "a lot of fun, it's a community thing, we are not here to fundraise just to better our health." Hazel Maxwell who sits on the sneaker committee added that "I look forward to it every year, everyone seems to enjoy themselves." The students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School also get involved with the walk which is a great way to promote healthy fitness early on.

The lunch ended with a raffle, with the prizes donated by local businesses. The lunch was a great way for the organisation to say thanks to a community who has really helped them in a number of ways. ■

Thank You

THANK YOU!

The Haliburton Village BIA
would like to thank the following for their financial contributions toward the Haliburton Village Santa Claus Parade

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The cost of the parade is substantial and wothout their help it would not be possible.

Haliburton County Council Inaugural Session and Notice of Budget Meeting

The Council of the County of Haliburton will hold the annual Inaugural Session at 7:00 p.m. on December 15th, 2009.

Further, a Special Budget meeting is scheduled to take place on December 16, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Meetings are convened in the County Council Chambers located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden.

Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk
County of Haliburton

Announcements

Royce and Dorothy Bain of Haliburton celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 5th. The occasion was marked by a visit from their son Inspector Tim Bain, the Officer in Charge of Operations for the Wood Buffalo RCMP Detachment in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Inspector Bain has been a member of the RCMP for 28 years and has served in four provinces/territories and eleven detachments. Inspector Bain took the opportunity to participate in his red serge uniform in the Remembrance Day parade and lay a wreath on behalf of the RCMP. Of note, Royce and Dorothy both celebrated their 80th birthdays in 2009

4C's LILY ANN

Cannot receive clothing or items during the weeks of December 11th through to January 4th, 2010.
Due to preparing and distributing CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE.
We thank you for your ongoing support.
May everyone have A BLESSED CHRISTMAS.

Remembering Your Loved One

Show how much you care by placing your "In Memory Of" ad today in The County Voice.

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For Rent

HOUSE FOR RENT – Two bedroom fully furnished house, all electric heat – 4 piece bath. Call 705-489-2550. (TFN)

For Rent

FOR RENT – Commercial space to rent, 152 Highland Street – 582sqft, suitable for office or rental, overlooks Head Lake Call Michael Easton at 705-457-5143, or e-mail measton3@sympatico.ca. (TFN)

LOT FOR RENT – In over 55 mobile home Park in Lake Bonnet Village, Avon Park/ Sebring area. Will take a 40ft unit. Check out the park at www.lakebonnetvillage.com, or call Gloria at 705-754-2548 for details. (TFN)

FOR RENT – Large two bedroom apartment, den and parking, 1/2km from The Independent Grocer. First and last, reference all required. One small animal is okay, no smoking. $660.00 per month plus utilities. Call 705-457-2434. (TFN)

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FOR RENT/FOR SALE – Two bedroom house in Haliburton, walk to stores, hydro heat, own utilities, drilled well, $650.00/month, first and last, after 6p.m. Call 705-488-2382. (Dec B)

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457-3414

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FOR RENT – Storage space available. Call 705-286-0343. (TFN)

FOR RENT – Four bedroom home in Ingoldsby, child friendly neighborhood. Wood and electric heat. Available February 1st, 2010. $750.00 plus utilities. First and last required, no smoking, no pets. Please call 705-286-2900. (Dec C)

FOR RENT – On 12 Mile Lake, 2 bedroom cottage, $900/month, includes heat, hydro, satellite television, garbage removal, parking and coin laundry. Call Lori at 705-489-3739. (DecC)

FOR RENT – Two bedroom apartment just outside Minden, $600/month plus hydro. Avaiable December 1st, 2009. Call 705-457-5597. (DecC)

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NEW COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEMS. 30 Years of experience in Minden and Haliburton area. We take care of all paperwork and permits. Fully licensed, health unit inspected. Call for a free estimate, Brent Coltman Trucking and Excavating at 705-286-3952 or 1-800-357-8711 (TFN)

FOR SALE – Honda ATV 350cc 4x4 (2005), excellent condition, has winch – Like new, call 705-286-2208. (TFN)

For Sale

FOR SALE – Schwhank oil space heater 65000BTUH $300.00, electric cook stove 30' $100.00, vanity with top 24" $30.00, flush toilet $20.00, apartment size washer and dryer 120v $30.00, call 705-457-2433. (TFN)

FOR SALE – 1997 Arctic Cat ZRT600 snowmobile, excellent condition, tripe cylinder. $2000.00 – B/O. Call 705-754-2145 or 705-878-7091. (Dec B)

FOR SALE - 3 IKEA chairs with cushions new, $149.00 now $50.00 each. Black and white cushions. 4 Captain pine chairs $100.00, and a 24 in electric stove. Call 705-754-2548. (TFN)

FOR SALE - Simmons Twin Mattress, Box Spring, Frame and Pine or Maple Head Board. Occasionally used. Asking $100 or best offer to a local charity of your choice. Please call 489-3685. (Dec C)

FOR SALE – 1996 Skandic Ski-Doo – 2 up – electric reverse– tow hitch – new carbides/sliders, 5700kms – mint condition –ready to go, $2200.00 –B/O, Call 705-455-2220. (Dec B)

For Sale

FOR SALE – Firewood for sale, dry and green. Call Jim Reynolds at 705-455-9186. (Dec B)

FOR SALE – Dining room table w/ leaves, 6 chairs, 2 captains – great condition $350.00. Snow tires 3 new size 205/60 15 $280.00. Car roof/top and closed carrier, lockable, w/ hardware, used once, $140.00. Call 705-447-9900. (TFN)

FOR SALE - $3500 for both. 1996 Ski Doo Mach Z, 800cc - 3 cylinder, studded, rear back rest, cover, carbides – low kms. 1997 Tom co single enclosed trailer, lift ramp. 705-448-1958. (DecB)

FOR SALE – Electric model train sets, still in boxes, H.O. scale Pres. Choice, plus 2 Harry Potter trains. $125.00 each set. Please call 705-286-4279. (DecB)

FOR SALE – 2001 Kodiak SE 400, winch, new wind shield, reg. storage box, good condition, asking $4200 B/O. 1986 Yamaha Moto 4 350 Hi-low range, good condition $2300 B/O. Call 705-448-1023. (Dec C)

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FOR SALE – 1998 Dodge 4x4 – 5 speed trans - $1750 as is. Happy Daze Automotive 705-286-8473. (Dec B)

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Sports Reporter Wanted

Sadly (for us) our ace sports reporter Matthew Flowers returns to school full time in the new year, so

The County Voice needs an energetic, enthusiastic, part-time sports reporter to cover the wide variety of Haliburton County's High School and amateur Sports.

Please Fax your resume to 705-457-5004
or Email to editor@countyvoice.ca
or call 457-5001 and ask for Stephen - or mail to
Box 930 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
or drop in resume to office - Lower level of
Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper

County Voice.ca

Our thanks to Matthew for the great coverage during his time off of school. We will miss you and we wish you all the success in your continuing studies.

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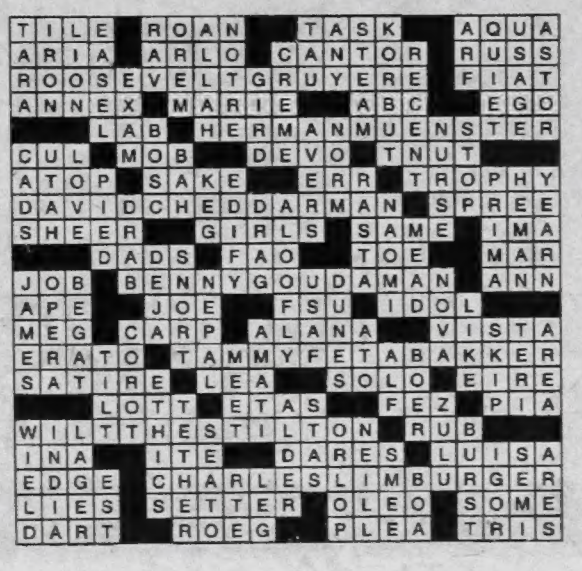

The Nutcracker

Zoe Cittern

Two mice: Michelle and Maxine Perry hide behind the grandfather clock on stage

17 year old Tamara Poropat practices her poses as a peacock

15 year old Snowqueen Loretta Kerr gets ready for the upcoming performance of The Nutcracker

Mice, a Snow queen, the Sugar Plum fairy and other characters will soon grace the stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion Theatre in a ballet production of the classic story, The Nutcracker, on December 12th and 13th. The dress rehearsals are well under way and countless hours have been spent working hard on the beautiful costumes, designed and made by Dani Smolen, owner of the Tutu Cafe. The Nutcracker will be performed by the Heritage Ballet and there seemed to be a buzz in the air last Saturday December 5th as the performers practiced their dances.

"There are over 500 costume pieces including head sets, bodices, the tutus so everything has to be organised very well backstage" said Barb Fraser, costumer mistress on the production. The production includes dancers of different ages, the littlest starting at just three years old. It will be the sixth year that the company has performed The Nutcracker. Barb says that she enjoys "seeing the finished production, its incredibly rewarding as it's definitely a labour of love. It's truly a community event and warms your heart when it's cold out. The show is great for every one of all ages, the music is beautiful and the dancing delightful."

The show on December 12th will begin at 7.30pm with a matinee performance starting at 2pm on December 14th. Tickets can be purchased from Cranberry Cottage and Pharmasave; $15 for adults and $10 for children. ■

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Each donation also helps decorate our trees in the lobbies

As of November 30 we have raised $22,685.00 towards our goal.

If you would like to help us "Reach For The Future", your gift can be sent to:

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Box 1413, Haliburton, ON., K0M 1S0 or Box 30, Minden, ON., K0M 2K0. You can deposit your gift in the donations boxes at the Minden and Haliburton Facilities, or you can donate online at: www.hhhs.on.ca/foundation.htm.

A Foundation For The Health Of The Highlands

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We are so happy to extend this invitation to you. On Aug. 28th, just as we were beginning this year's cake orders, our propane oven caught fire. We thank God that no one was injured! Thanks to the Highlands East Fire Team, especially Gerry Solmes & Steve Davis, whose care and skills contained the fire, yet caused no water or chemical damage. The smoke damage resulted in the loss of all of our ingredients, packaging and 600 cakes.
We are grateful too, for the many calls and prayers of support while, we struggled to get back to normal.
By weeks end, we had more basswood for new frames, thanks to Ernie at Highland Forest Products. Soon after, we had new frames delivered to our door. Joanne and George (Calfas); Your generous offer to quickly provide them, was so very good-hearted! this meant we could now make the 300 more cakes per week, needed to meet our commitments.
Thanks also to all of our suppliers who so quickly repiaced our lost packaging (Norampac, Lindsay Paper Box, Donoglue Distributors).
Also, I especially appreciate the wonderful staff who worked so hard to get us back on track... you are the best! May God richly bless you all!

Janet & "The Gang"
Linkert Country Bakery

www.linkertcountrybakery.ca

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ON DECEMBER 12, 2009

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Any inquires or to purchase tickets contact
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Brett's son Kyle or Brittany Poter
Reggie @ 705-447-2463
Tickets can also be purchased at the Minden Bookstore located beside Stedman's on Main Street

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Fun, Friends, Food
Come & Enjoy!

DEC 11 - Turkey Dinner at Wilberforce Legion.
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

DEC 17 - Turkey Dinner at Minden Legion.
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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Sunday, December 20th at 7:00pm
Carols and Candles
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Special Christmas Service

Thursday, December 31st at 9:00pm - 12:00pm
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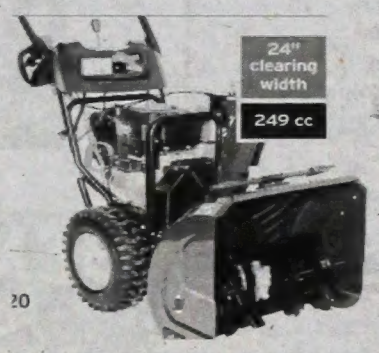

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